



DAMAGE PREVENTION
Industry Awards

Honoring Excellence in Damage Prevention & Excavation Safety

2026 Nomination Guide

About this document

Thank you for your interest in UDig NY’s 2026 Damage Prevention Industry Awards. This document is intended as a guide to completing a nomination and is for informational purposes only. All nominations must be submitted using the official nomination web form, available until July 31, 2026, at UDigNY.org/IndustryAwards

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How to complete a strong nomination

Ensure Questions Are Fully Answered

Strong nominations include specific actions, outcomes, and timeframes. When addressing each question, please ensure that your response answers:

- What was done?
- When or over what period of time?
- Who was involved?
- Why did it matter? (impact or outcome)

Provide Good Examples

Backing up your answers with strong examples helps the review committee understand the scale and value of the nominee's contributions. Whenever possible, please include:

- **Metrics, statistics, and other facts** that help the committee quantify the impact of the nominee's contribution.
- **Stories, testimonials and other qualitative information** that help the committee to assess the inspirational/motivational value of the nominee's contributions for other professionals.

Nominations that provide examples or metrics specifically related to UDig NY's educational programs, Damage Prevention Councils, and/or Positive Response will receive special consideration from the review committee.

UDig NY Guardian Excavation Company Award

The UDig NY Guardian Award acknowledges excavation companies that have successfully integrated damage prevention within their organizational culture. This prestigious award honors exemplary performance in maintaining a zero-damage policy, prioritizing worker safety, and protecting underground infrastructure. It highlights the recipient company's dedication to fostering a safe working environment while emphasizing damage prevention at every operational level. The award will be presented to a company that has exhibited a thorough and consistent safety program, originating from the highest administrative levels and permeating through the entire corporate culture down to field operations.

1. Has the nominee demonstrated a well-structured safety program across administrative and field operations? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Consider describing written policies, training frequency, field audits, safety meetings, or accountability measures.)**
2. Has the nominee consistently implemented and enforced a zero-damage policy? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include internal policies, disciplinary procedures, corrective actions, or documented improvements over time.)**
3. Has the nominee maintained low incident rates and high safety standards? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(If available, include approximate damage rates, year-over-year trends, or comparison to prior performance.)**
4. Has the nominee actively supported regional Damage Prevention Councils (DPCs)? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include meeting attendance, leadership roles, sponsorships, presentations, or volunteer efforts.)**
5. Has the nominee used effective damage prevention practices or innovative safety measures? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples could include new tools, processes, technology, or procedural changes that reduced risk.)**
6. Has the nominee adopted the Certified Excavator Program for all field personnel? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Note percentage of workforce trained, timelines, refresher practices, or onboarding requirements.)**
7. Has the nominee evaluated ticket volume, damage rates, CEP participation, Exactix adoption, and ticket quality? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include internal tracking, dashboards, management reviews, or process changes driven by Exactix or ticket data.)**

Precision Pathfinder Locator Award

The Precision Pathfinder Award recognizes an outstanding utility locator who has demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and accuracy in their field. This prestigious award celebrates those who have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and integrity of public infrastructure through precise and effective locating services.

1. Has the nominee consistently demonstrated high accuracy when locating underground utilities? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include complex locates, challenging environments, or consistently positive excavator feedback.)**
2. Has the nominee shown commitment to improving locating techniques, tools, or technology? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Consider training, certifications, new equipment adoption, or process improvements the nominee introduced.)**
3. Has the nominee maintained an exemplary safety record with minimal or no mismarks? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(If known, include approximate mismark frequency, notable prevention efforts, or corrective actions taken.)**
4. Has the nominee demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and strong work ethic? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include dependability, response timeliness, conflict resolution, or peer recognition. If available, please include number of locates completed in previous year, or another specified timeframe if the full year is not available.)**
5. Has the nominee participated in training or mentorship that supports other locators? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include formal mentoring, on-the-job coaching, "ride-alongs", or knowledge-sharing activities.)**
6. Does the nominee provide exceptional customer service through clear communication and dependable service? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include proactive communication, documentation clarity, or coordination with excavators.)**
7. Does the nominee promote industry best practices and the importance of accurate locating? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Consider participation in training events, DPC discussions, or informal advocacy in the field.)**

Damage Prevention Council Member of the Year Award

The Damage Prevention Council Member of the Year Award is presented to a distinguished member of the Damage Prevention Council (DPC) who has consistently demonstrated excellence and dedication in the field of damage prevention. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to their regional Damage Prevention Council, thereby serving as role models for other members and significantly enhancing the council's growth and prestige.

1. Has the nominee made significant contributions to their DPC's damage prevention efforts? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include initiatives led, problems addressed, or improvements influenced.)**
2. Has the nominee served as a role model for other DPC members? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Describe behaviors others emulate—leadership, professionalism, or collaboration.)**
3. Has the nominee made sustained contributions to their regional DPC? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Consider length of service, consistency of involvement, or long-term impact.)**
4. Has the nominee contributed to the growth or reputation of the council? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include increased attendance, engagement, outreach, or partnerships.)**
5. Has the nominee demonstrated leadership, job knowledge, creativity, or problem-solving skills? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Describe a challenge faced and how the nominee helped resolve it.)**

Damage Prevention Council Rising Star Award

The Rising Star Award is designed to recognize a qualified Damage Prevention Council (DPC) member who has demonstrated exceptional promise and performance in the early stages of their career. This award spotlights up-and-coming leaders who actively attend and support UDig NY at DPC meetings, conferences, and education programs. Any employee who has participated in a regional DPC for three or fewer years is eligible for this honor.

1. As of **March 24, 2026**, has the nominee participated in a Damage Prevention Council for three years or less? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Note when the nominee joined and how quickly they became engaged. If available, meeting attendance records will be considered.)**
2. Is the nominee recognized within their DPC as an emerging leader? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include leading discussions, volunteering, or taking initiative.)**
3. Has the nominee demonstrated commitment to damage prevention and safe excavation? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Describe behaviors, advocacy, or actions beyond minimum participation.)**
4. Has the nominee achieved measurable results or increased participation within the council? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Examples may include attendance growth, new ideas implemented, or participation increases.)**
5. Does the nominee show interest in improving leadership or operational skills through continuing education? If yes, explain with at least one example. If no, enter NA. **(Consider training, certifications, conferences, or expressed interest in leadership development.)**