

Winter 2002

**FREE**  
Cellular  
Number to  
Reach  
Alabama One  
Call is  
**#DIG**  
or  
**#344**

**CINGULAR WIRELESS**, a division of BellSouth, is now providing #DIG for their customers to reach Alabama One Call. By dialing #DIG or #344 on your mobile phone, excavators, contractors, and property owners can notify Alabama One Call of their intent to excavate.

**SOUTHERN LINC**, the wireless communication service for Southern Company has also been providing this easy access number since last year.

**Dig Safely.**  
**1.800.292.8525**

## Alabama One Call: A damage prevention solution for protecting Alabama's vital underground infrastructure.

**Power. Heat. Communication. Water and sewage. We take our utilities so much for granted...** Today, more and more of the utility companies that supply our homes or businesses with power, gas, water, telephone, sewer, internet and cable television services are delivering those services through cables buried underground. It is sometimes possible that these facilities are not buried very deep and are easier to hit than some may think...resulting in both financial cost and possibly loss of life.

When there's an outage, there are many ways in which our lives are inconvenienced, but utility outages may have a darker side. Calls to 911 and other emergency services may be impossible. People relying on powered medical equipment, hospital and air traffic operations may suddenly be in serious difficulties. Lack of heat in the winter or cooling in the summer can be life threatening for some. Business becomes difficult or nearly impossible. The affected area may come to a complete standstill.

Protecting this essential infrastructure in Alabama is a top priority for the people who plan, install, operate,

repair, and regulate underground facilities. It is a responsibility shared by facility designers, facility operators, excavators, regulators, and property owners. And it's important to everyone who relies on Alabama's underground infrastructure for essential energy, communication, and transportation services.

**So Whether You Are A Contractor, Home or Property Owner, Builder, Landscape Service, Pool or Fence Contractor or anyone digging into the ground's surface....**

### **REMEMBER TO:**

- **Call Before You Dig (As required by Alabama Act 94-487)**
- **Wait the Required 48 Hours to Allow the Underground Utilities Nearby to be Marked.**
- **Respect the Color Coded Utility Marks or Flags on the Ground**
- **Dig with Care to Prevent Damage to Underground Utilities and Services.**

# GeoCall Conversion Around the Corner

Alabama One Call has almost completed the background work to convert the locate request processing software to a new system known as GeoCall. GeoCall was developed and is owned by a corporation, Progressive Partnering, which is owned jointly by the non-profit call centers in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. GeoCall is also currently being used in Oklahoma as well as these other states. The unique part of GeoCall is that it was developed specifically by and for one call centers and their member utility companies.

One of the major factors in the AOC's decision to change software programs was the ability to utilize a mapping interface that accommodated a spatial database format. In the past, the AOC members provided a list of legal Township, Range and Sections that their facilities were locate in. Due to the over-coverage inherent with a grid system, many of our members received locate requests for areas that could be up to a mile away from their facilities. As a result the AOC experienced an 8:1 ratio, meaning for every locate requests processed, on average, the AOC had eight members notified. This is in comparison to a 3:1 or 4:1 average for other one-call centers using the GeoCall system.

## WHAT DOES THE CHANGE IN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS MEAN TO YOU?

As an **excavator** you will experience the following:

- Potentially slightly longer time to process a locate request – an estimated additional minute per locate request. The reason for this is the CSR will be actually looking at a map to determine the excavation area and marking it to determine which members facilities may be directly in conflict. Therefore, there may be some additional questions to ask to ensure that the system is pulling

the correct information for your excavation site. The benefit is that reducing the number of members notified on a ticket, allows for a better quality locate requests to our members; therefore allowing them to be able to locate in a more timely basis from not having to review and process locate requests which may not be directly in conflict with their facilities.

- Remote Ticket Entry program will change to include the mapping interface. All excavators currently using the Web Ticket Entry program will need to undergo training to use the new system. These classes will be scheduled in January and February. All current WebTE users will be contacted to schedule a training class.

- The ticket number will change. Currently, the AOC resets the ticket number to “000001” at the start of each year. On the GeoCall system, the ticket number will be based on the Julian calendar. For example, a ticket number will be 03020-0100, where 03=year, 020 is the 20th day of the year, and 0100 is the 100th ticket taken that day. This will allow for each ticket processed to have its own unique identification number.

As a **member facility owner** you will see the following advantages:

- More defined database area as your coverage area is converted to a true spatial database. After the conversion is completed, each member will receive a map of their current coverage area based on individual counties. Instead of reviewing a list of TRS grids, a member can now view an actual map of their coverage area as listed with the AOC.

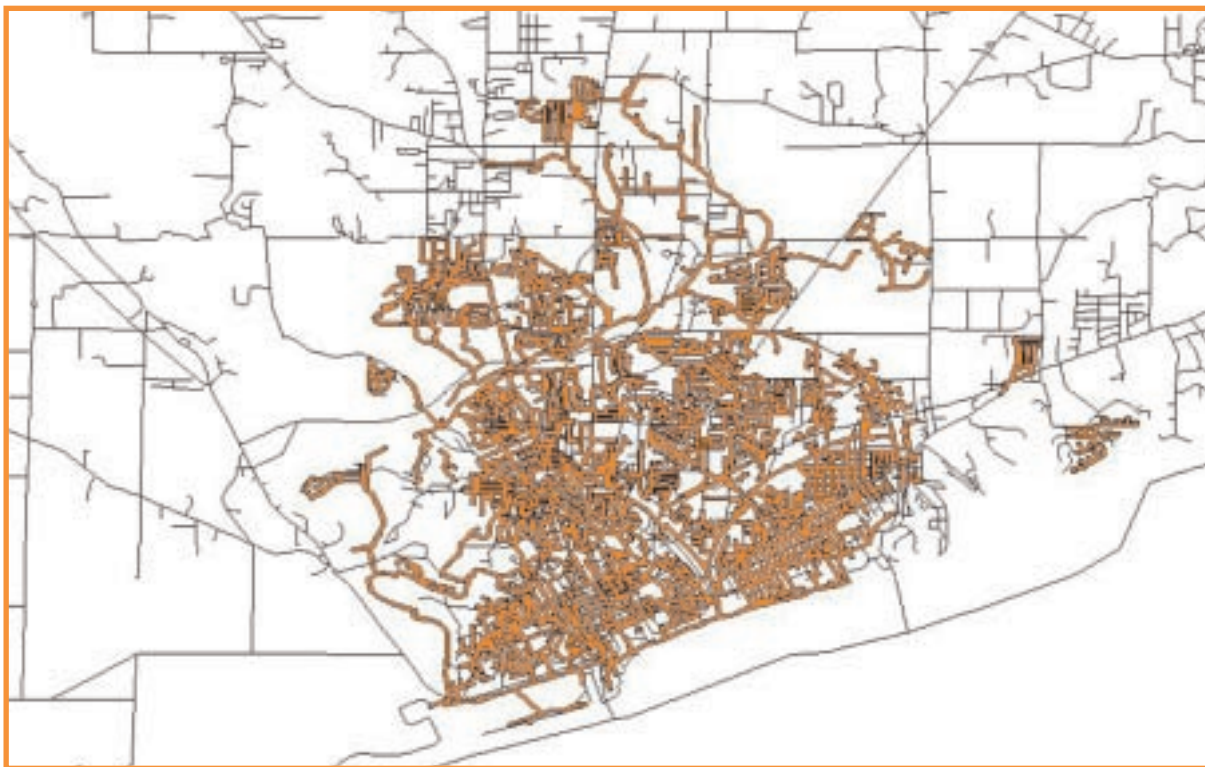
- Members who “clean up” their service area database for the over notification areas, should see a reduction in the number of locate requests

they receive which are not in close proximity of the dig site location. This should reduce manhours internally to review tickets, or reduce screening charges from contract locators. And therefore result in a more timely locate for the excavator.

■ More defined reporting on a per requests basis. The new software allows for any information input on a locate request ticket to be researched and reported on.

■ Future software and technology advancements. As a part of the future development and enhancements of the GeoCall software, the AOC will be able to offer, at no cost or minimal cost to our members, software and technologies that can improve their communications and functionality with the AOC. These type of features include programs such as FTP (file transfer protocol) software to allow members to receive their tickets directly from a FTP site and manipulate the data for their purposes in locate the ticket.

***The target date for the complete conversion over to operating on the new system is February 3, 2003. Thank you in advance for your patience as all parties involved get use to the new system.***



***This image depicts a shape file of member facilities.***

### **Excavator and Contractor”Dig Safely “Meeting**

Marshall County Gas will host a contractor breakfast meeting at 8:00 am on Wednesday, March 12, 2003. The location is 11337 Hwy 431, Albertville. If you are interested in attending contact Brian Baker, Marshall County Gas: 256-878-4591.

“Dig Safely” presentations by Alabama One Call highlight the requirements of Alabama’s Underground Damage Prevention Legislation 94-487, proper notification procedures to follow when calling for a locate ticket request, and a short video.

Door prizes and giveaways will be given out to the contractors in attendance.

# Associated Builders & Contractors of Alabama Excellence in Construction Awards Winners

Alabama's construction industry and Associated Builders & Contractors announced the 2002 Excellence in Construction Award Winners and honored Mr. T. Michael Goodrich of BE & K, Inc. with the **Alabama Construction News** Cornerstone Award on the evening of October 25, 2002.

The Cornerstone Award is presented to individuals who have made an exemplary lifelong commitment to the betterment of Alabama's construction industry and have brought favorable recognition to the industry as a result of their personal integrity, business ethics and community involvement.

## Congratulations to the Following 2002 Award Winners!

All-South Subcontractors, Inc., Ard Contracting, Inc., Bagby & Russell Electric Co., Bhate Engineering Corp., BE & K, Inc., C.S. Beatty Construction, Inc., B.L. Harbert International, Brasfield & Gorrie LLC, Brice Building Company, Brindley Construction Group, Caddell Construction Co., Inc., Covington Flooring Co., Inc., Doster Construction Co., Inc., El De Co., Inc of Alabama, Hardy Corporation, Harmony LLC, Hoar Construction, LLC, Masonry Arts, Inc., M.J. Harris, Inc., Premier Service Co., Inc., Ready Mix USA, Saiia Construction, Selective Masonry, Inc., Stanley Jones Corporation, Star Electrical Contractors, Stegall Mechanical, Stewart & Perry, The Robins & Morton Group and Thompson Power Systems.

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## AGC's Young Constructor's Forum Sets World Record for Building Habitat for Humanity House

On December 17, 2002, The Alabama Associated General Contractors and its Young Constructor's Forum worked in conjunction with the Shelby County Habitat for Humanity to build a three bedroom, two-bath house in three hours, 26 minutes and 34 seconds, breaking the previous world record set in 1999 in New Zealand.

Through the AGC, the YCF, Brice Building and 37 other AGC member companies, professional craftsmen including plumbers, carpenters, painters, roofers and electricians contributed their skills to build "The World's Fastest House." The project required months of planning and coordination. Brice Building Company lent a full time project manager, Chad Calhoun to oversee the project. "This was one of the greatest volunteer efforts ever," Calhoun said.

The day's highlight came when Sandy Robinson of Alabama Power Co., a Habitat volunteer, presented Bonnie Lilly her new house keys. Lilly, a nursing technician at Shelby Baptist Medical Center and mother of two, received an interest free mortgage from Habitat and contributed 300 hours of sweat equity to other homes built in the Habitat subdivision.

"We have a serious commitment to community service and public relations that runs throughout our membership and staff," said Bill Caton, AGC, Director of Public Relations. "The project garnered media attention from all Alabama television networks as well as CNN. Our members' excitement and pride in their association and industry continues to build a stronger AGC," said Caton.

# BENEFITS OF “DIGGING SAFELY”

Digging, trenching, boring, augering, and blasting are all inherently dangerous to life and property. Even under ideal conditions with a minimum of underground utilities or other obstructions the risk of potential damage is high. Coordination, communication and cooperation between excavators, contractors, homeowners, property owners and utility owners can help to reduce the risk of damage and:

**Reduce** the chance of injury to employees and citizens.

**Maintain** uninterrupted utility service to the citizens of Alabama.

**Reduce** insurance premium payments.

**Reduce** Workers' Compensation payments.

**Reduce** non-productive down time.

**Optimize** job scheduling activities.

**Reduce** damages to expensive excavating equipment.

**Reduce** or eliminate the payment of property damage claims.

## 2002 TICKET VOLUME

January	29, 827
February	28, 441
March	30, 487
April	35, 962
May	35, 925
June	31, 987
July	34, 004
August	33, 469
September	29, 010
October	32, 342
November	24, 198
December	23, 846
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>369, 846</b>

**DON'T GO DIGGING UP TROUBLE!**

Careless digging can cause disruption of vital utility services and environmental damage, even injury or loss of life. So please, become a partner in damage prevention. Help prevent expensive repair costs. Call before you dig. Wait the required amount of time. Respect the marks and dig with care.

**Alabama 1 Call**

**Dig Safely.**  
1.800.292.8525  
252-4444 (Birmingham Area)

# 2003 International Locate Rodeo

July 31 – August 2, 2003

Mercer University

Macon, Georgia

For the second year, “The International Utility Locate Rodeo will be the preeminent event for Utility Locate Technician recognition, and will serve as the cornerstone to promote high quality and achievable industry standards.” All professional locating technicians employed by a municipality, utility, contract locator, or an employee of a private locating company is welcome to compete.

Last year, competitors came from as far away as Arizona, California, Canada, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and an a strong contingency representing many cities from Georgia. The top twenty performers featured a true balance between contract locators, municipality locators and utility employee locators.

The first place prize was a \$2,000 check awarded to the competitors who achieved the highest scoring in their category. Additionally, several prizes were awarded to those placing 2nd and 3rd place in their respective category. For 2003 the prizes promise be better than ever!

The events are tough, challenging and will push locating skills to the highest of standards. In each event, the competitor has fifteen minutes to find an access point, hook up, locate

the facility with flags and document measurements on the provided event template.

On Friday, day one of the events, the competitor may choose which division he/she wishes

to compete in order to qualify for Saturday competition. There are 54 slots available for each division. The four competitive divisions are:

- 1) Telecommunication,
- 2) Gas, 3) Water, 4) Power.

Top divisional winners from Friday will compete on Saturday. The actual utility type will be unknown to the competi-

tors until they arrive to the Event Zone on Saturday. Saturday will concluded with an awards banquet for all participants registered for the 2003 Locate Rodeo.

There will also be fun events for all which include Golf Putting, Chipping, Horseshoes, Basketball Free Throws and more....

The registration fee is \$125 per competitor and accommodations can be reserved at the Holiday Inn Macon Conference Center at a rate of \$63.00 per night. For more information on registration or sponsorship opportunities, visit the website at: [www.locaterodeo.com](http://www.locaterodeo.com). Or contact: Tim Boatfield, Locate Rodeo Chairman, 706-295-4838; [tboatfield@gaupc](mailto:tboatfield@gaupc).



# Welcome to Our New Members

As our membership continues to grow, we are proud to introduce our newest members for the second half of 2002. To request a membership kit or additional information, contact Tina Creel, Operations/Human Resources Director, at 205.414.1840 or email: [tcreel@al1call.com](mailto:tcreel@al1call.com).

## **Southern Power Company**

has joined to protect their gas transmission lines in Autauga and Lee Counties.

## **Arlington Properties**

To protect their gas lines serving their housing complexes in Barbour, Eutaw, Jefferson, Marshall and Pickens Counties.

## **Bridgeport Housing Authority**

has joined to protect their gas lines in their complex in the Town of Bridgeport.

## **City of Orange Beach Wastewater Plant**

Has joined to protect their sewer lines in and around the city of Orange Beach in Baldwin County.

## **City of Linden**

They have joined to protect their water and sewer lines in the city of Linden and surrounding areas in Marengo County.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**It is so easy to make one phone call, are all utilities in Alabama members of Alabama One Call? No.**

- Alabama's Underground Damage Prevention Act 94-487, does not currently require mandatory participation in Alabama One Call by all underground facility owners. However, those underground facility owners who are not members of Alabama One Call are required to have an in-house program which meets some of the same requirements that are placed on Alabama One Call.
- Excavators, contractors and property owners are required to notify all underground facility owners 2 working days prior to start of excavation, whether they are or are not a member of Alabama One Call.

**From the time I notify Alabama One Call, How long do I have to wait to excavate? Two working days.**

- State law (Alabama Act 94-487) requires that you must wait two working days after notification is made to allow time for the locate request to be acted upon. For example, if you call in on Monday at 8:00 a.m., your excavation/digging can begin on Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.
- When Alabama One Calls' Customer Service Representative takes the locate request, the excavator will be informed of the legal work date when the utility lines should be marked.
- However, if after that two working day notice has expired, we suggest you check to ensure that all visible signs of potentially buried utilities have been marked with the respective utility color code markings. If there are signs of buried facilities that have not been located, we suggest that you initiate a second call back to Alabama One Call so that the locate request can be sent back out to the member facility owners letting them know that all lines have not been marked. As part of this second notice to the utilities, they should respond and have the site located as soon as possible. This is for your own safety and protection as well as the protection of the buried utility.

## OBVIOUS SIGNS OF UNDEGROUND FACILITIES

When approaching a jobsite where digging will take place, here are some sure signs that there are buried utilities in the area you are planning to excavate in:

- Manhole Lids
- Warning Markers
- Stub Ups
- Fire Hydrants
- Gas Meters
- Storm Drains
- Power Pads
- Dip Poles
- Visible Trench Lines
- Cross Boxes
- Slick Cabinets

## CALL TWO WORKING DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG

**800.292.8525 or 252.4444 (B'ham)**

When calling in a locate request have the following information available:

- Company Telephone Number, Name and Address
- Caller Name
- Work Type
- Work Being Done For
- State, County, City/Town
- In/Out City Limits
- Location-Street Address
- Nearest Intersecting Streets/Roads
- Exact Area to Locate (Be specific)
- Type of Work
- Will jobsite be outlined in white paint?
- Will boring or blasting be done?
- Is job site at a Railroad Right of Way?
- Work Date and Time excavation is scheduled to begin

**Alabama**  **Call**

Alabama One Call  
P.O. Box 1476  
Birmingham, AL 35201

Presorted Std.  
US Postage

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