

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PA LICA members,

Fall is upon us just like that, and we're all scrambling to wrap up our big projects and prepare for whatever winter brings to PA in a few weeks.

A quick note that the 2026 PALICA Winter Conference will be held back at Toftree's Golf Resort in State College PA, March 26-28th.



I wanted to take a quick minute to speak to any of you who have never attended a PALICA state conference before, or if it's been quite a while since you last attended. My wife and I have found it to be very beneficial in terms of the things we've learned from many different speakers and topics, the other members we've gotten to know, and learning about the benefits our Associate Members offer us in PALICA. The mere fact that I'm currently your President speaks to how much I believe in this organization and its members.

Please consider making this the year you take 2-3 days off and bring your significant other or a few employees (or you can even attend just the Friday classes if you can't get away for a few days). We decided to attend a few years ago for the first time, and we've only missed one year since that time, which was unavoidable.

The cost to attend is minimal compared to the education you take away from there, and if you don't get enough to eat and drink, it's your own fault. We have a lot of fun as well and you can't put a price on that, so think about it! Watch your mail for the agenda Joanie is putting together - she'll send it via email and snail mail in early 2026.

Have a wonderful holiday season as it's coming way too fast!

Justin Hoover,
President

PS - INVOICES FOR THE 2026 DUES WENT OUT IN SEPTEMBER AND WERE DUE ON 10/10/25 - PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR PAYMENT ASAP OR YOU CAN ALWAYS PAY ONLINE VIA THE [WEBSITE](#) . If you need a copy of your invoice please email Joanie @ pennsylvanialica@gmail.com

PUCA has agreed to open this event in Eastern PA to non-members

All PA LICA associate and contractor members are encouraged to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to better understand Build America, Buy America (BABA) and how it impacts companies working to comply with these federal regulations. PennDOT itself recently had to align with the BABA requirements, making this session especially timely and relevant.



Feeling lost when it comes to BABA? Join us at a District Meeting this fall!

PUCA Members had such a huge response to our District Meeting in the Philadelphia area on BABA that we had to move into a larger banquet room. We can now open up attendance to Non-Members as well for \$125! Join us on October 22nd in Plumsteadville.

Our October District Meeting is vital for **Suppliers, Estimators, Project Managers and Company Owners** to attend. PUCA has secured speakers from the Husch Blackwell firm in Washington, DC to educate our members on the intricacies of Build America Buy America Act (BABA). The three speakers are experts on the Build America Buy America Act that effects PUCA Members on projects with any federal funding.

As this information is so vital to all members we urge you to make plans to attend this meeting. There will be time to ask questions, absorb accurate information, talk with others in your field and debate different perspectives. Bring those in your company that need to hear this information first hand.

We will hold this District Meeting in the Philadelphia area on October 22nd. The food is great, the camaraderie is top notch and the education will be first class!

REGISTRATION

MORE INFO & TO REGISTER

PUCA

OCTOBER 22 AND 23 ONLY

FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

FEATURING BUILD AMERICA BUY AMERICA ACT (BABA)

MELISSA KIRBY

HAL PERLOFF

JOSHI MOUSHAMI

TWO NIGHTS ONLY!

Find meeting details at puca.org/events

PHILADELPHIA AREA ON OCTOBER 22ND
Plumsteadville Inn, 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

PITTSBURGH AREA ON OCTOBER 23RD
Toscana Brick Oven, 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Cost: \$75.00

ed@puca.org www.puca.org 717.234.8055



Lycoming College Policy Committee Hearing Reviews Workforce Shortages



Strategies to solve Pennsylvania's current and future workforce shortages were examined during a [public hearing](#) of the Senate Majority Policy Committee which I chaired with Senators Gene Yaw, Lisa Baker, and Scott Hutchinson at my alma mater, Lycoming College. We were joined by leaders from Lycoming, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Luzerne County Community College, and Allegheny College, as well as employers, labor and career development organizations, and students.

We're facing shortages in many key fields: doctors, nurses, dentists, teachers and especially skilled trade laborers as we seek to identify key problems and bridge any gaps that exist between our educators and these important industries.



DITCH the PHONE: Click Before You Dig!

If you're an excavator working in Pennsylvania, you know it's the law to call 811 before you dig. This gives facility owners the opportunity to mark their lines at your worksite, helping you complete your job as safely as possible.

What you may not realize is that you don't have to make a phone call to meet this requirement. Like many other services that have moved from the phone to digital platforms, Pennsylvania 811 offers convenient online tools that are faster, more accurate, and more efficient than calling.

PA One Call features three convenient online platforms for ticket submission: Web Ticket Entry, Web Single Address, and Coordinate PA. Submitting tickets online gives you flexibility. Whether you need extra time to enter details or are working in an unfamiliar location, you're not under pressure to explain everything to a call center representative. Instead, you remain in control of the process.

Web Ticket Entry allows you to create both routine and emergency tickets more quickly and precisely than by phone. With an intuitive web-based interface, you can locate your dig site on the map, draw your dig box, provide excavation details, and receive your serial number all in about five minutes. You also have the option to upload files and photos directly to your ticket, ensuring facility owners receive the most complete information.

If you're new to Web Ticket Entry, Pennsylvania 811 provides a short training video to help you get started. For additional support, you can attend a live monthly webinar at www.pa1call.org/events, where one of our damage prevention liaisons will walk you through the application and answer your questions.

For contractors working at a single address, **Web Single Address** offers a simplified option. Enter the worksite address, provide the excavation details, and receive your official Pennsylvania 811 dig notification quickly and easily. Please note that this option is only for projects working at a single address location.

For larger or more complex projects, **Coordinate PA (CPA)** provides a comprehensive platform that supports planning from design through construction. With features such as project contacts, file sharing, and integrated communication tools, CPA allows all parties to coordinate effectively. Entering a ticket is straightforward—if you're familiar with Web Ticket Entry, you'll find CPA just as simple to use.

In this issue:

- Online Ticket Submission
- Updated FINAL Responses
- 811 Day Highlights
- 2026 Safety Days

Pennsylvania 811's web-based tools are designed to help you submit tickets more efficiently and with greater accuracy, so you can begin your work faster and safer. The next time you prepare to dig, choose the convenience of clicking 811 to handle your notifications online.

Written by: Brandon Dujmic, Senior Damage Prevention Liaison

Responding with Clarity

Pennsylvania is a positive response state, which means facility owners must not only mark their facilities but also respond to every dig notification through the One Call System, as required by the PA One Call Law. These responses provide excavators with vital information, helping prevent damage and keeping jobsites safe.

In October 2024, an updated PA One Call Law added a provision requiring facility owners to enter a final response in a timely manner. To better align, the Pennsylvania One Call Board of Directors voted in July 2025 to adopt a resolution stating that KARL responses previously designated as "interim" will now be recognized as "final." While all responses are now considered final, PA 811 recommends using **001 – Clear – No Facilities/Not Involved** or **003 – Field Marked**, as they communicate most effectively with excavators.

Facility owners can submit responses online through the Online Ticket Management (OTM) application or by calling the KARL system at 1-800-222-6470. Facility owners responding through the OTM application also have the option to add notes to their responses. These notes are shared with the excavator, and can further support safe excavation practices.

Failure to respond to a dig notification may result in alleged violation reports and administrative penalties imposed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Damage Prevention Committee. For more information, contact your local Damage Prevention Liaison at

www.pa1call.org/liaisons.

Written by: Erika Dominick, Damage Prevention Liaison

KARL RESPONSES		
Excavation	Design	Preconstruction Meeting
001 Clear No facilities or facilities not involved based on ticket information	082 Design Conflict Send Plans	090 Will Attend Meeting
002 Conflict Lines Nearby Direct Contact to follow by Facility Owner	083 Engineering Complete	091 Clear Will Not Attend Meeting
003 Field Marked		092 Requests Meeting Direct Contact to follow by Facility Owner
004 Insufficient Information Do Not Dig		095 Did Not Attend Meeting Direct Contact to follow by Facility Owner
005 Not Marked Due to No Access		096 Agrees No Meeting Required
006 Schedule Date and Time Lines Will Be Marked By		099 Attended Meeting Reached Agreement
007 Voice Message		

Click Before You DIG!

Visit WWW.PA1CALL.ORG to submit a ticket



PennDOT Launches Campaign to Prevent Bridge Hits: ‘Check Your Height, Know It’s Right’

More than 600 bridges have been hit by vehicles that surpassed height requirements in the last 10 years – PennDOT is reminding drivers to be mindful when driving large vehicles to prevent more damage to Commonwealth bridges.

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation today launched a new public awareness campaign aimed at helping drivers avoid hitting low bridges with vehicles. The “Check Your Height, Know It’s Right” campaign – announced as part of a multi-state collaboration – encourages motorists to know their vehicle height and check that it will safely fit under bridges on their route. Vehicle strikes to the tops or sides of bridges, commonly known as bridge hits, damage vehicles and infrastructure, cause traffic delays, and put the public and emergency responders at risk.

According to PennDOT data, in the 10 years between 2013 and 2023, there were more than 600 strikes to bridges or other overhead structures in PA.

“Pennsylvania has made tremendous progress on improving our bridges, and through Governor Shapiro’s budget investments we can advance even more repairs. Each of these bridge strikes take funding away from other projects and often involve resources from our emergency response partners,” said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. “Drivers must know their vehicle height and watch for signage indicating bridge heights. If you are driving a commercial vehicle, a delivery or moving truck, or an RV, do not rely on your navigation app. Check the height of your vehicle and know it’s right!”

[READ MORE HERE](#)



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SPRING 2025

DRIVERS URGED TO PUT THE PHONE DOWN

Hands-Free Law goes into effect June 5th

To help combat distracted driving, Pennsylvania will soon implement "Paul Miller's Law," which prohibits, as a primary offence, any driver from using an interactive mobile device while driving. The law is named after Paul Miller, who was tragically killed in a crash with a tractor trailer in 2010 in Monroe County because of a distracted driver who reached for their phone.

According to PennDOT data, there were 11,262 crashes statewide involving a distracted driver in 2023, resulting in 65 fatalities. In the northwest region, which includes Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties, there were 540 distracted driving crashes and six fatalities.

Enforcement of the law begins on June 5, 2025, and the violations during the first 12 months will result in a written warning. Effective June 5, 2026, the penalty for violations will be elevated to a summary offence with a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees.

DRIVERS URGED TO PUT THE PHONE DOWN, DRIVE SAFELY

As part of his mission to provide a safe transportation system for all Pennsylvanians, Governor Josh Shapiro signed Senate Bill 37 into law on June 5, 2024. Effective June 5, 2025, the law - known as "Paul Miller's Law" - prohibits the use of hand-held devices while driving, even while stopped temporarily due to traffic, a red light, or other momentary delay. Pennsylvania already enforces a texting-while-driving ban that prohibits drivers from using mobile devices to send, read, or write text-based communications while their vehicle is in motion. Beginning June 5, 2025, law enforcement will begin issuing written warnings for violations of Senate Bill 37. Law enforcement will have the ability to issue summary citations to violators beginning June 6, 2026.

The law is named for Paul Miller, Jr., who was tragically killed in a crash with a tractor trailer in 2010 in Monroe County, as the result of a distracted driver who reached for their phone while driving. Since his death, Paul's mother Eileen Miller has become a national advocate for stronger laws to curb distracted driving.

"Nearly 15 years ago, two Dunmore state troopers knocked on my door to tell me that my son was killed," said Eileen Miller, Paul Miller, Jr.'s mother. "My son did everything right - he was killed by someone else's unsafe choices behind the wheel. This law is for every family in Pennsylvania that doesn't have to experience two state troopers knocking on their door to tell them that their loved one was killed by distracted driving. Paul Miller's Law will be a beacon of protection for every driver and passenger in Pennsylvania."

Paul Miller's Law will also work to prevent bias in policing by requiring law enforcement to collect data on drivers pulled over during traffic stops, including race, ethnicity, and gender. The data will be made publicly available in an annual report. This amendment - which the Governor advocated for in conjunction with the Legislative Black Caucus - builds on the Shapiro Administration's work to ensure Pennsylvanians can have the utmost faith in the law enforcement officers serving and protecting them every day.

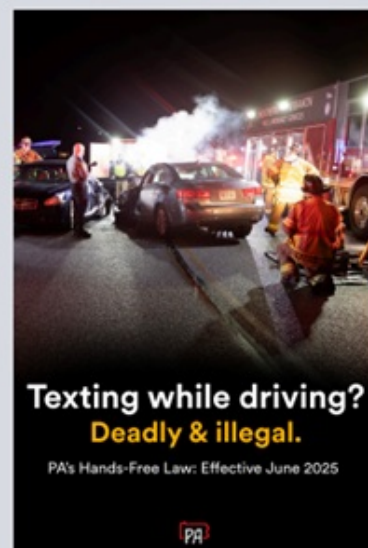
According to PennDOT data, in 2024 there were 9,950 crashes involving a distracted driver, resulting in more than 6,000 injuries and 49 fatalities. Distracted driving crash data is believed to be underreported due to many drivers' reluctance to admit to being distracted at the time of a crash.

If you are the driver, follow these steps for a safe drive:

- If you are expecting a text message or need to send one that can't wait, pull over and park your car in a safe location before using your device.
- Ask a passenger to be your "designated texter." Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone's "Do Not Disturb" feature, silence notifications, or put your phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

Cell phone use is not the only distraction while driving. Anything that takes your attention away from driving, your eyes off the road, or your hands off the wheel is a distraction. Driver behavior is the leading factor in 83% of the crashes that occur annually in Pennsylvania. These behaviors include driving distracted, impaired, or aggressive.

For more information on distracted driving, visit www.PennDOT.pa.gov/safety.



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Don't Underestimate the Importance of Clean Sand in System Design

The proliferation of mound systems in the 1970's built demand for carefully sized sand products free of contaminating fines.

By Jim Anderson and Dave Gustafson



We get a lot of questions about clean sand. Most are related to the clean sand requirement for mound sewage treatment systems. However, we do get questions about using sand in either single- or multiple-pass sand filters and use of sand or other materials as fill or final cover for soil treatment systems.

In this column, we focus on clean sand for mound treatment systems. In Minnesota, there are more than 50,000 mounds in operation. When designed and installed correctly, these are effective and long-lasting systems. Some have been in continuous operation since the 1970s. This type of success requires use of proper materials — clean sand and clean rock being the most important. One of the biggest problems we have seen when troubleshooting failing mounds is use of sand that is not clean, resulting in premature failures.

Sand performs two functions in mound systems: It provides initial treatment of sewage tank effluent and acts to disperse the partially treated effluent over the soil treatment area for final treatment in natural soil. To provide these functions requires sand free of silt and clay-size particles, which can — over time — wash through the sand to the soil infiltrative surface, forming a restrictive layer and reducing movement of water into and through the natural soil.

Since the installation of the first mound systems in the early 1970s, the definition of clean sand changed as more was learned about which systems operated best and for the longest times. The first definition merely said that the percentage of sand needed to be at least 90%, leaving the possibility to have as much as 10% “fines” (silt and clay-sized particles). Later research led to the recommendation to allow only 5% fines and that less than 5% was better.

Sand stats

The definition we use in Minnesota is “clean sand is a soil texture composed by weight of at least 25% very coarse, coarse and medium sand varying in size

from 2.0 to 0.25 millimeters, less than 50% fine or very fine sand ranging in size between 0.25 and 0.05 millimeters and no more than 5% smaller than 0.05 millimeters.”

Clean sand according to the Minnesota code is defined by the following sieve sizes and percent passing each sieve.

SIEVE NUMBER	SIEVE SIZE (MM)	PERCENT PASSING
4	4.75	95-100
8	2.0	80-100
10	0.85	0-100
40	0.425	0-100
60	0.212	0-40
200	0.075	0-5

A couple of points must be made. This definition is specific, so a “clean sand” fitting all of these criteria is difficult to find in nature; therefore, pit run sand, in most cases, will not meet the fines requirement, meaning the sand must be washed and sieved to achieve similar specifications. This increases the cost of the sand significantly, especially in areas where mounds are not built very often, so the volume of material with these specifications is low.

Our definition also includes a restriction on very fine and fine sands. This is because we have found through experience and research that these particles are very close in size to silt particles. If the percentage is too high, even though the material fits the sand size criteria, the soil will act more like silt in terms of permeability when septic tank effluent is added. When infiltration rates are reduced, a more resistant bio mat can form at the infiltration surface, leading to mound failure.

What About C33?

Because of the difficulty obtaining clean sand with these characteristics, some states have specified use of C33 sand as defined by the American Society for Testing and Materials. This is a material used in road construction and is widely available from suppliers. The problem is material meeting this standard can be variable. On the coarse end of what is allowed, the particles are larger and the percentages of fines are quite low, about 2%. This material certainly meets the definition of clean sand. At the lower end, the material could contain as much as 10% fines. When selecting sand, it is important to receive and look at the sieve analysis for the material purchased, because all C33 material is not the same.

To demonstrate differences in materials, below is the C33 sieve analysis to compare with the Minnesota definition. Along with the sieve analysis, the supplier can provide a uniformity coefficient for the material. This tells how well-graded the material is: whether there is a wide range of sizes in the material or whether the material consists of mostly one size of particle. A uniformity coefficient of 1.00 means all the particles are the same size, while numbers larger than 1.00 indicate materials with less uniformity.

SIEVE SIZE	CUMULATIVE PERCENT PASSING
4	95-100
8	80-100
16	50-85
30	25-60
50	10-30
100	2-10



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