



# UNDERGROUND FACILITY LOCATING

Career Awareness Session

# AGENDA

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1. Meet the Team
2. Overview of the Initiative
3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career
4. Career Resources
5. Questions



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## 1. Meet the Team

# CAPULC (CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PIPELINE AND UTILITY LOCATING CONTRACTORS)

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### WHAT WE DO

We provide leadership, promote safety, and enhance the value and reputation of the underground facility locating industry in Canada.

### HOW WE DO IT

By providing a community in which to share information and resources, network, and establish and promote standards and best practices.

### WHY WE DO IT

To meet and exceed safety expectations, perform each job with due diligence, and govern the application of rules and regulations as they pertain to the industry.

## 1. Meet the Team

# JIVA CONSULTING

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### WHAT WE DO

We help organizations build resilience in ever-evolving technical, regulatory, and societal contexts.

### HOW WE DO IT

We turn complex technical knowledge into clear, practical systems and learning experiences for companies and industries.

### WHY WE DO IT

Our goal is to build the resilience of energy and infrastructure in the communities where we live and work.

## 1. Meet the Team

### IAC MEMBERS

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The following individuals formed the Industry Advisory Committee for this project and guided the technical accuracy of the content:

- Jamie Andersen – First Alert Locating Ltd.
- Corey Baker – Enmax
- Gary Mason – LineStar Utility Supply Inc.
- Sam MacDonald – Locate Management Institute
- Matt Etherington – EM Utility Locating
- Randy Palaniuk – LN Land Development Technologies



## 1. Meet the Team

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Province of Alberta is working in partnership with the Government of Canada to provide employment support programs and services.

Canada 

Alberta 

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## 2. Overview of the Initiative

# CAREER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- CAPULC, with the aid of Jiva Consulting, has implemented a campaign to attract and retain individuals to the Underground Facility Locating career. This project is driven by the following:
  - Underground Facility Locating is a "hidden" career path
  - There are limited publicly available resources to support job seekers in learning about this career
  - This leads to difficulties attracting new people
- Resources have been created for job seekers and employers as a result



## 2. Overview of the Initiative

# CAREER AWARENESS EVENTS



### ONLINE

1. **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
12:00PM – 1:00PM MST
2. **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
7:00PM – 8:00PM MST
3. **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
2:00PM – 3:00PM MST
4. **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
9:00AM – 10:00AM MST
5. **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
11:00AM – 12:00PM MST
6. **June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
4:00PM – 5:00PM MST



### IN PERSON

#### Calgary

1. TBD, please visit [capulc.ca](http://capulc.ca) for more information
2. TBD, please visit [capulc.ca](http://capulc.ca) for more information

#### Edmonton

1. TBD, please visit [capulc.ca](http://capulc.ca) for more information

#### Grande Prairie

1. TBD, please visit [capulc.ca](http://capulc.ca) for more information



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### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## WHAT IS AN UNDERGROUND FACILITY LOCATOR?

- Underground Facility Locators (aka: line locators or utility locators) locate and mark underground infrastructure (e.g., communication and alarm cables and gas, oil, water, and sewer pipes).
- Locating and marking underground infrastructure helps prevent damage to underground infrastructure during ground disturbance activities (e.g., construction) by indicating the infrastructure's location.
- Locating and marking existing underground infrastructure may also be required when designing and planning new infrastructure.



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## **WORKING CONDITIONS (1 OF 2)**

- Underground Facility Locating is generally a physical job
  - It requires frequent walking and bending
  - Some employers require that individuals be able to lift 20 kg (44 lbs) or more
- Underground Facility Locators should expect to work outside in different terrains
  - This can include working during different weather conditions (e.g., rain and snow)



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## **WORKING CONDITIONS (2 OF 2)**

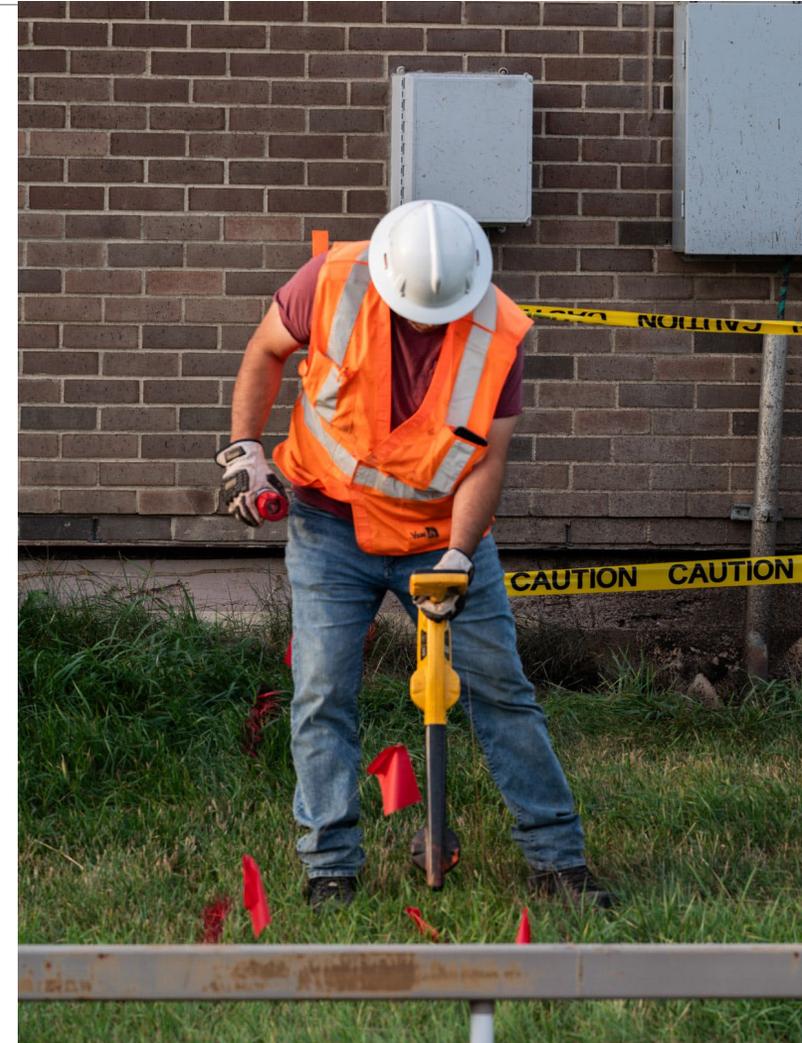
- Some positions require that an individual:
  - Works alone
  - Travels
  - Works in remote locations
  - Stays overnight in a job location
  - Be on-call, meaning they may work odd hours such as early mornings, late nights, and weekends
- There are some risks associated with these aspects of the job. However, there are ways to manage these risks, including conducting hazard assessments.



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Although it can vary by position and employer, Underground Facility Locators are generally responsible for:

- Completing underground facility locates using the appropriate locating methods and equipment.
- Following relevant federal, provincial, and municipal regulations and industry best practices and standards.
- Taking appropriate safety measures, such as completing visual inspections and hazard assessments, per industry and/or client requirements or standards.
- Troubleshooting problems during locates.
- Obtaining the information necessary for completing locates, such as maps, records, or plans.
- Communicating effectively with relevant stakeholders and team members, per industry and/or client requirements.
- Accurately documenting locate information, such as creating diagrams of locate results.



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## SKILLS & TRAITS



#### BENEFICIAL SKILLS

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Organizational skills
- Computer skills
- Problem-solving skills



#### BENEFICIAL TRAITS

- Safety consciousness
- Situational awareness
- Attention to detail
- Ability to stay calm in stressful situations
- Ability to work alone and in teams
- Physical capability
- Spatial awareness



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career **EDUCATION**

- Underground Facility Locators generally need minimal formal education.
- Some employers may require a high school education; however, many positions only require that the individual be able to read, write, and follow instructions.



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## RELEVANT BACKGROUNDS

- Certain employment backgrounds may provide knowledge and skills that easily transfer into Underground Facility Locating. This includes backgrounds such as:
  - Construction
  - Utilities
  - Energy
  - Surveying
- However, while these backgrounds may be beneficial, they are not required. Many positions will hire those just entering the workforce.



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

# CERTIFICATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

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- Most positions require a class 5 driver's licence, as most locating work will require driving.
- While generally not a hiring requirement for entry-level positions, you may need to get these certifications at some point in your career:
  - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
  - Standard First Aid Certification
  - Utility Locator Training (e.g., the Utility Safety Partners' [USP] endorsed training as part of the ALP)
  - Advanced Line Locating Online Training (provided by Locate Management)
  - Advanced Line Locating Hands-on Training (e.g., Underground Facility Locator Training Program, provided by Locate Management Institute, Damage Prevention Technician Training by Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance [ORCGA])
  - Ground Disturbance Training
  - Construction Safety Training System (CSTS) or Pipeline Construction Safety Training (PCST)
  - Common Safety Orientation (CSO)
  - H2S Alive Safety Certification (for industrial applications)



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

- Organizations that hire Underground Facility Locators include:
  - Underground Facility Locating companies
  - Facility owners (e.g., Enmax and Telus)
  - Surveying/Engineering companies
  - Excavating companies
  - Underground Facility Locating equipment providers
  - Underground Facility Locator training providers
- Many potential employers are listed on the CAPULC website:  
<https://www.capulc.ca/Locate-a-Locator>



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career

## **ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES (1 OF 2)**

- Some companies have different position levels for Underground Facility Locators (e.g., junior, intermediate, senior, supervisor, and manager).
- Some individuals may want to open their own Underground Facility Locating businesses.



### 3. Underground Facility Locating as a Career **ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES (2 OF 2)**

- Additionally, Underground Facility Locating roles may provide experience that helps individuals move to other related roles, such as:
  - Damage prevention roles (at facility owners or excavating companies)
  - Surveying roles
  - Training roles
  - Safety roles
  - Equipment supply roles
- Some of these roles may have additional education requirements.



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## 4. Career Resources

### OVERVIEW

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- CAPULC, with the support of Jiva, has created new career resources for job seekers that:
  - Build awareness of career options in Underground Facility Locating
  - Clarify employment requirements
  - Inform interested job seekers and enable them to decide if this field of work could be a good fit for them
- These resources are available via CAPULC and Jiva's websites:
  - <https://www.capulc.ca/>
  - <https://www.jivaconsulting.com/>

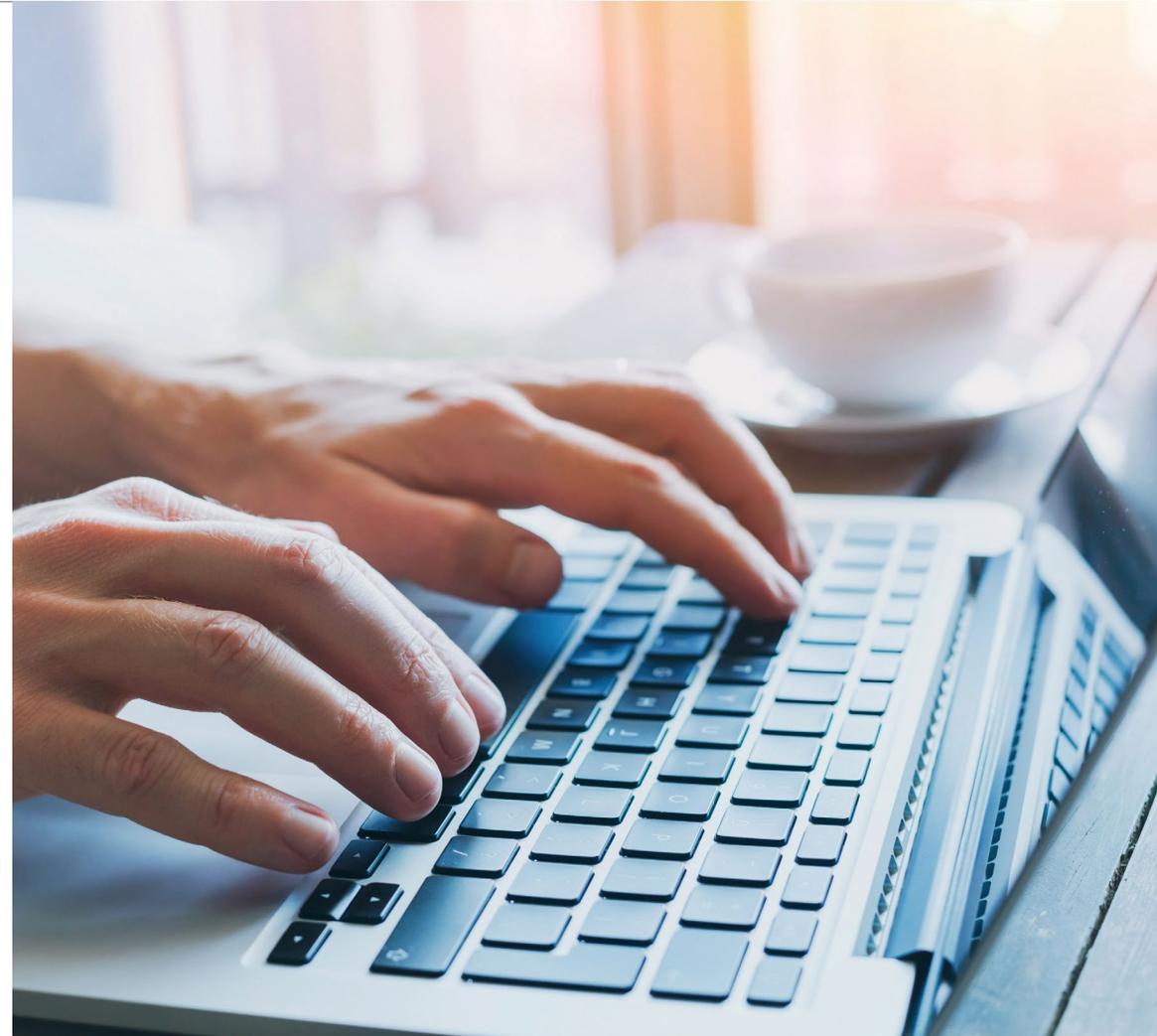


## 4. Career Resources

### **POSITION PROFILE**

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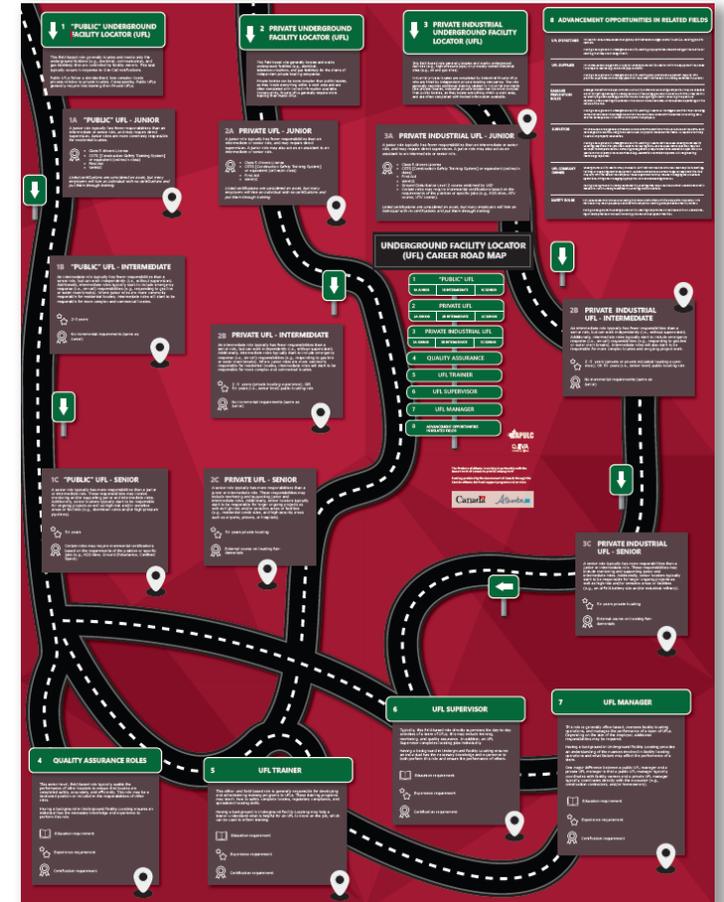
- An industry consensus-based position profile detailing the typical requirements and expectations for Underground Facility Locators is available.
- Contains similar information to this presentation and can be used to gain a better understanding of the Underground Facility Locator position.



# 4. Career Resources

## CAREER ROADMAP

- A visual "roadmap" detailing the typical minimum requirements and progression of a career in Underground Facility Locating.
- Also available in booklet form.



## 4. Career Resources

# CAREER SURVEY

- People working in the locating industry were consulted via an online survey.
- The results of this survey offer valuable insights into the Underground Facility Locating career and are summarized in a presentation available online.



## 4. Career Resources

### ONLINE RESOURCES - GENERAL

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- In addition to the resources mentioned in previous slides, additional information is available on the following websites:

	RESOURCE	URL
1	CAPULC	<a href="http://www.capulc.ca">http://www.capulc.ca</a>
2	Locate Management Institute	<a href="https://www.locatemanagement.com/">https://www.locatemanagement.com/</a>

## 4. Career Resources

# ONLINE RESOURCES – COMMON GROUND ALLIANCES

- There are organizations across Canada that support the prevention of damage to underground facilities (in which Underground Facility Locating is a vital function)

	ORGANIZATION	URL
1	Canadian Common Ground Alliance	<a href="https://www.canadiancga.com/">https://www.canadiancga.com/</a>
2	British Columbia Common Ground Alliance	<a href="https://commongroundbc.ca/">https://commongroundbc.ca/</a>
3	(Alberta) Utility Safety Partners	<a href="https://utilityafety.ca/">https://utilityafety.ca/</a>
4	Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance	<a href="https://scga.ca/">https://scga.ca/</a>
5	Manitoba Common Ground Alliance	<a href="https://www.manitobacga.com/">https://www.manitobacga.com/</a>
6	Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance	<a href="https://orcga.com/">https://orcga.com/</a>
7	Atlantic Canada Common Ground Alliance	<a href="https://www.atlanticdigsafe.ca/">https://www.atlanticdigsafe.ca/</a>
8	(Quebec) Info-Excavation	<a href="https://www.info-ex.com/">https://www.info-ex.com/</a>

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# QUESTIONS?

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For More Information  
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