



TRAINING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**OVERVIEW OF
GROUND DISTURBANCE STANDARDS**

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Utility Safety Partners

140, 1209 – 59 Ave. SE
Calgary AB T2H 2P6

TSCAdmin@UtilitySafety.ca

INTRODUCTION

The Utility Safety Partners (USP) Training Standards Committee (formerly of the Alberta Common Ground Alliance) has developed multiple Ground Disturbance Standards with input from stakeholders in the ground disturbance and buried facility damage prevention communities. This overview of the Ground Disturbance Standards identifies the subject matter required in Instructor-Led (classroom or virtual) and online Ground Disturbance training programs. Sufficient detail is provided to allow a training provider to make an informed decision about developing a program and submitting it to USP for endorsement. It also provides employers and prospective students the information necessary to appreciate the benefits of a ground disturbance training program that has gone through the USP endorsement process.

GROUND DISTURBANCE 101 STANDARD (ALBERTA)

The Ground Disturbance 101 Standard defines the minimum content and student evaluation requirements for ILT and online training programs suitable for a field worker level. This Standard includes ground disturbance/buried facility damage prevention best practices and industry guidelines to provide students with the best information currently available. The Standard does not address the geotechnical aspects or regulatory requirements of safe excavation and trenching.

GROUND DISTURBANCE 201 STANDARDS (ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA & MANITOBA)

The Ground Disturbance 201 Standards define the minimum content and student evaluation requirements for ILT and online training programs suitable for those that wish to ultimately become ground disturbance supervisors. These Standards include regulatory requirements, ground disturbance/buried facility damage prevention best practices and industry guidelines to provide students with the best information currently available. The Standard does not address the geotechnical aspects of safe excavation and trenching. Each of the above listed provinces have their own Standard, specific to regulations and best practices in their respective provinces.

APPLICATION TO ACCESS THE STANDARDS

Access to Ground Disturbance 201 Standards will be granted to bona fide training organizations on submission of the Application to Access form and be given approval by USP. Access to the Ground Disturbance 101 Standard will be granted to GD 201 endorsed training organizations on submission of the Application to Access form and be given approval by USP. Approval of the Application to Access the Ground Disturbance Standard will also include an invoice for the Standard access fee for non-USP members in the amount outlined in the current Schedule of Fees. Upon payment of the Standard access fee, the Applicant will receive a PDF copy of the Standard requested. USP members in good standing will not be charged this fee and will be granted access solely on the approval of their application, providing they agree to and sign a confidentiality agreement.

PROGRAM ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

There are three stages to the program assessment process:

- Stage I** An evaluation of the content of the Applicant's program against the minimum content specified in the Ground Disturbance Standard(s). The Applicant's program must meet the requirements of the Stage I Application Form before progressing to Stage II.
- Stage II** A check of the Applicant's internal systems and processes that support the program, ensure the protection of student information collected, and ensure the integrity of examinations and certificates. The Applicant's internal systems and processes must meet the requirements of the Stage II Application Form before progressing to Stage III.
- Stage III** An audit of the Applicant's presentation of the program to ensure the minimum content is presented accurately and in accordance with the Applicant's internal systems and processes. Requirements of the Stage III audit document must be met, and all applicable fees must be paid, before a training program will be considered endorsed.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Each Stage has associated fees set out in the current Schedule of Fees. The current Schedule of Fees is posted on the USP web site www.utilitysafety.ca, or can be obtained by emailing TSCAdmin@UtilitySafety.ca.

SERVICE STANDARD

The timelines associated with the stages of the endorsement process are set out in the Service Standard. The Service Standard is posted on the USP web site www.utilitysafety.ca, or can be obtained by emailing TSCAdmin@UtilitySafety.ca.

| Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | Completed by: | Approved by: | Briefly describe changes | Version of final copy |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 04-19-2021 | MF | MS | Updated to include AOC document requirements; also created one sole Overview for all Standards | 1.0 |
| 08-17-2021 | MF | MS | Updated to include new logo and USP wording, removing all ABCGA/AOC reference | 2.0 |
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