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**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG CONFERENCE EXPECTS RECORD ATTENDANCE;
REGISTRATIONS STILL AVAILABLE**

ALBUQUERQUE--The Second Annual New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance (NMRCGA) Conference, scheduled **May 3-4, 2007** at the Albuquerque Convention Center, expects to attract more than 400 participants this year but is still taking reservations.

Our first year, we had just over 300 people. This year, we are expecting to ultimately attract more than 400, said Gary Sloman, Executive Director of New Mexico One Call and one of the founding partners of NMRCGA. He noted that the first 350 registrants will receive free parking passes to park in the Convention Center facility, a value of \$16.00.

Designed to provide safety education, certification training and a look at the latest technology for underground excavation, the 2007 Conference's theme is "**811, Know what's below. Call before you dig.**" The Conference is open to anyone interested and is designed to encourage safe excavation practices and education on how to prevent damage from underground digs.

Among highlights of this year's conference are:

- **Certification classes** for Master Meter operators, training on Weapons of Mass Destruction awareness, crisis management and excavation law
- Classes on **excavation safety** for first responders, contractors and underground facility owners (gas, electric, water and telecommunications lines)
- Keynote speech by Bob Kipp, president of the National Common Ground Alliance
- An **exhibit hall** with more than 50 exhibitors offering a look at the latest equipment and tools of the trade, including state-of-the-art hydro-excavation GapVax trucks, which offer a safe, non-destructive method to excavate using high pressure water to loosen the soil and a simultaneous vacuum to remove the soil

Conference partners include New Mexico One Call, the New Mexico Gas Association, the Four Corners Damage Prevention Group, National Underground Contractors Association (NUCA) of New Mexico and the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC).

For more information about the NMRCGA Second Annual Conference, persons can visit www.nmrcga.org or call **1-800-687-3417** or **(505) 293-2000** and ask for Phyllis or Liz.

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