

## Professional Engineers Renewal Criteria

### *UNH T<sup>2</sup> Workshops Fulfil Requirements*

Professional engineers in New Hampshire must begin to accumulate professional development hours during the license renewal period beginning after June 30, 1997. They must report 30 Professional Development Hours (PDH's) for the biennium.

Professional engineers can acquire PDH's by attending UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center Workshops relevant to the practice of engineering. The Board of Licensure relies on the licensee's judgement to choose relevant courses. A PDH is equivalent to one contact hour. Most UNH T2 workshops are eligible for 5 PHD's.

When teaching or instructing qualified courses or seminars (such as UNH T<sup>2</sup> workshops) the instructor is eligible to earn twice as many PDH's as the participants. Call the UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center if you're interested in teaching a workshop.

### **Record keeping**

The licensee must keep their own records of PHD's for licensing requirements. Records must be maintained for three years and may be requested by the licensing board for random audits. Failure to provide documentation upon request can result in disciplinary action. Records shall contain at least the following documentation.

1. A log showing the type of activity claimed, sponsoring organization, location, instructor's or speakers name, and PDH's and
2. Verification of attendance.

UNH T2 Center flyers, workshop agendas and attendance certificates contain all the necessary information. Other types of documentation can qualify. For a complete listing of documentation, and exemptions, see their website.

Renewal requirements for non-residents and reinstatement of licensing, along with other rules are available to the website.

<http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/home.htm>

## Underground Damage Prevention Laws Revised

### *Commonly referred to as DigSafe*

On January 1, 1998, revisions to the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Laws took effect. In addition to certain editorial changes, the revisions clarify the definitions of "excavate," "excavator," and "underground facility." New provisions include increased penalties for repeat offenders, and voluntary pre-marking.

The revised definition of "excavator" states:

"excavate, excavating, or excavation means any operation conducted in a public way, right-of-way, easement, public street, or other public place, in which the earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosive, and includes but is not limited to drilling, grading, boring, milling, trenching, tunneling, scraping, tree and root removal, cable or pipe plowing, fence or sign post installation, pile driving, wrecking, razing, rending or moving any structure or mass material..."

The purpose of the law is to protect excavators, the general public, and utilities from damage that occurs during excavation. The types of activities noted in the definition have created damage and injury.

"Emergency Situations" are conditions for whom strict adherence to the notification procedures might impair public safety, or compromise the adequacy of public service. In such situations, the excavator must contact DigSafe "as soon as practicable during the emergency situation."

There was a considerable disagreement over how long a Dig-Safe number was valid. The revised law clearly states: "The excavator's notification shall be valid for 30 calendar days from the date and time of confirmation of notification by the underground utility damage prevention system." A specified time period ensure that the excavation will occur before the markings have had a chance to erode.

The new voluntary pre-marking provisions were added to assist in communicating where an actual excavation is to occur. Methods include

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