



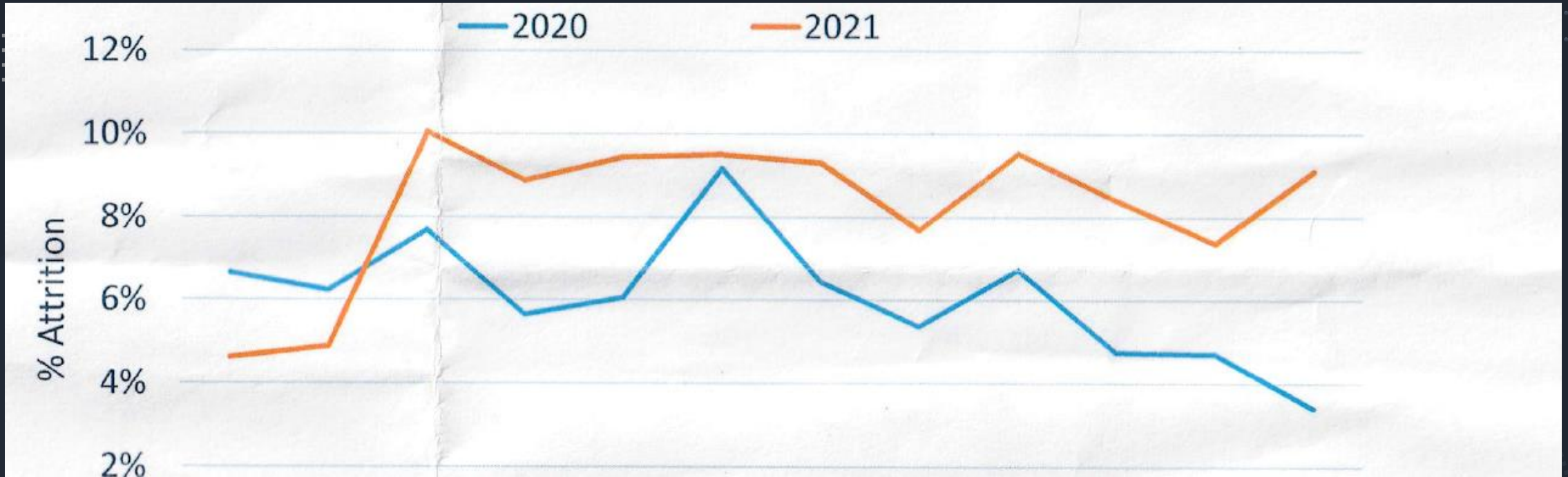
# Why a U.S. locator certification program is needed



# 25,000

At any given time in the U.S., 25,000 people earn their living finding the location of underground utility lines. However, hiring trends indicate a growing number of people do not want to be a locator.

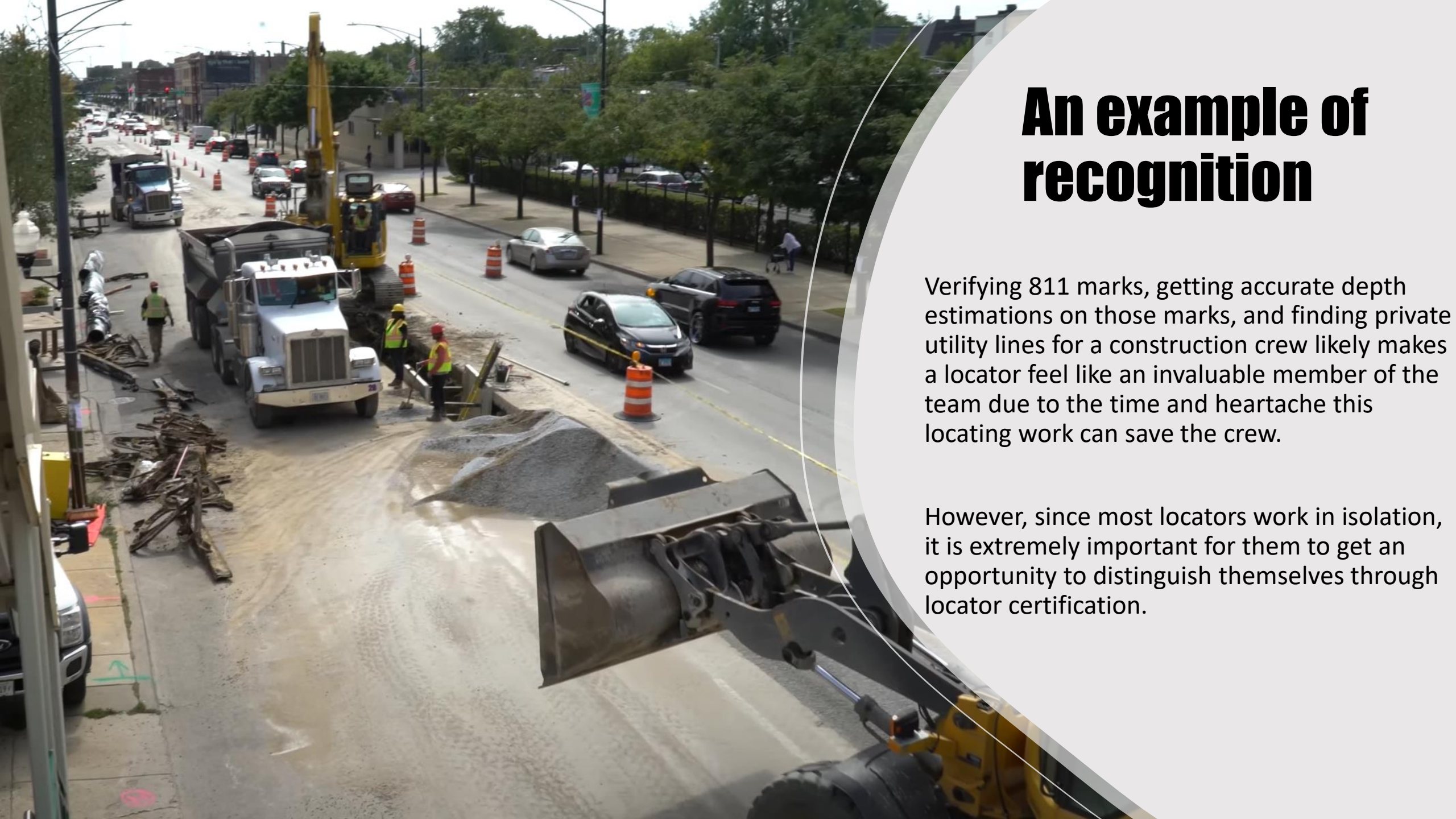
People desire for their skills to be acknowledged and the absence of a recognized, standardized, and unbiased certification program for locating is a regrettable reason people chose not to pursue, or continue, a career in locating.



## No one wants to be a locator

In terms of getting job-seekers into a training class, one locating industry insider claims the typical job applicant “wants more for doing less, doesn’t want to work outside, doesn’t want to work longer hours in the summer.”

Once on the payroll, high attrition rates in contract locating contribute to late 811 locates.



# An example of recognition

Verifying 811 marks, getting accurate depth estimations on those marks, and finding private utility lines for a construction crew likely makes a locator feel like an invaluable member of the team due to the time and heartache this locating work can save the crew.

However, since most locators work in isolation, it is extremely important for them to get an opportunity to distinguish themselves through locator certification.

# Recognize

Locator certification changes the industry view of locators, and most importantly, how locators view themselves. Recognition drives results while shining a light on what locators can achieve in their career.

# Acknowledge

A certified locator program identifies those locators most capable of delivering excellent results. A team of certified locators working directly with large project owners through coordination with 811 centers achieves results that are impossible to replicate using today's U.S. 811 model.

# Respect

Some countries credit a verified reduction in damages to their support of a certified locator program. They attest that this reduction is due to two things:

1. A rising level of industry respect directed toward locators
2. Increased levels of self-respect within the ranks of the locating workforce





# Self-respect

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“Becoming certified and being recognized for my knowledge and skills was great for my self-belief and confidence.” --Kane

“For me, becoming certified means credibility.” --Matt

“Seeing my marks line up once the underground assets are exposed makes me proud. It helps to build confidence and trust within myself even further and the accuracy with the locator.” --Lauren

- *These locators are not from the United States; they are from countries which credit a verified reduction in damages to their support of a certified locator program.*

# The Top 3 reasons to support a U.S. Certified Locator program

## 1. Recognize

Recognize the knowledge and skills it takes to deliver consistently accurate and complete locating results to excavators and others.

## 2. Acknowledge

Acknowledge that future damage prevention efforts may require a more skilled and knowledgeable locating workforce deployed in new ways.

## 3. Respect

Respect the profession by endorsing a program that respects its participants and helps them more easily see a career path in locating.



# The public launch of Locator Certification for U.S. Utility Locators

September 26, 2023, Louisville, Kentucky at The Utility Expo

The training program used to train a locator doesn't determine an individual's locating competency. A standardized, independent, and unbiased locator certification program's aim is to ensure that individuals have the skills and knowledge to deliver excellent underground utility locating results.

Hear from the first certified locators in the U.S. as well as the first certified field assessor. Meet the people who run Certified Locator programs in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Bring your questions about how this program will help you, your crew, and your company.



[https://directory.theutilityexpo.com/8\\_0/explore/session-gallery.cfm?sessiontrack=The%20Jobsite](https://directory.theutilityexpo.com/8_0/explore/session-gallery.cfm?sessiontrack=The%20Jobsite)



To become certified, a locator must pass both an online test and a practical, hands-on test

- Online test covers:
  - Tickets and Maps
  - Utility Map Reading
  - Basic Utility Knowledge
  - The Locating Instrument
- Practical test covers:
  - Performing ticket/work order; locating gas, electric, telephone, CATV and water for requested extent
  - Results scored on accuracy and completeness of locate

# Commitment to continuing education for locators

- Every two years, certified locators are required to participate in continuing education to maintain their certificate. This education consists of both online and in person requirements.
- Online: Must complete one online course every two years to maintain certification status
- In person: Must attend a two-day class every four years to maintain certification status.