



# PIPE INSTALLATION TRAINING

## Just Got Easier AND BETTER!

By Bob Walker, P.E.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How wonderful would it be to have an easy-to-use, comprehensive, and interactive training program for newly hired or semi-experienced pipe crews? The competency of the individuals who lay and bury pipelines is important for installation efficiency and for their own safety. Moreover, without proper installation, no pipe is capable of performing to its full potential. It is with great enthusiasm that we report to you that the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) Foundation for Education and Research has released the first of five CDs in the series, "Pipe Installation Training Series."



Produced by the Foundation at the request of NUCA's Education Committee, the program is configured as an individual, self-paced, computer-based training module. Each interactive CD is designed to make learning the information easy. Trainees can go at their own pace on individual computer workstations or any PC that has a 24X CD-ROM drive, a sound card, speakers, a 1.0 GHz processor and 512 MB of RAM.

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The training program's first CD, "Excavations, Trenching, Manholes and Backfilling" (Chapter 2), is divided into seven sections: (1) Safety, (2) Trenching, (3) Bedding, (4) Backfilling, (5) Manholes, (6) Dewatering and (7) Tie-ins. You can view a more detailed outline of the topics covered in Chapter 2 at <http://www.nuca.com/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=1687>. An average student will need 60 to 90 minutes to complete this chapter.

We invite all of our readers to preview a sample taken from the section on Bedding. The sample includes photographs, videos, animations and sample quizzes. (Note: The sample's picture quality is somewhat degraded as a consequence of its posting to the website.) For a preview, please visit: <http://www.vista-trainingdeveloper.com/developer/Rob/Bedding/>.

Each student's progress is measured with "check your knowledge" challenge questions at the end of each section and a final test at the completion of each chapter. Designed primarily for self-navigation, it can also be used by instructors to train groups via an LCD projector in a classroom setting.

Upon completion, a student's final score may be printed for approval by his or her supervisor and maintained with the employee's records. "Crew leaders and team members who complete this real-world training program will work together more proficiently and are more likely to get the job done right the first time, without wasting valuable materials or making unnecessary and costly installation errors," said NUCA CEO Bill Hillman. "The series is intended to be a profit-builder for water and sewer pipeline contractors, and this first segment delivers right off the bat."

Utilities and utility contractors who have tested the CD have had nothing but good things to say about it:

*"If you want your crew to understand what to do, when to do it, and why it is critical it get it done correctly, this is the tool for you. I strongly recommend it for any size company."*

**Chuck Dimick, President,  
Dimick Development Co.,  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

*"We will use Pipelayer on rain days to train our crews at our convenience. We are convinced that it will provide the most cost-effective training available."*

**Alan Gravel, Vice President,  
Willow Construction, Inc.,  
Powder Springs, Georgia**

*"Great commonsense training for the people who need it most -- the crew on the jobsite!"*

**Wendell Wood, National Sales Manager,  
SBH North America**

Quite frankly, this long overdue training material ought to be a must-have item not only for pipe utility construction companies, but also for city/county water and wastewater utilities, pipeline inspectors, pipeline design engineers, and regulatory agencies. Uni-Bell is proud to be one of the sponsors supporting this *Pipe Installation Training Series*.

The "Excavation, Trenching, Manholes and Backfilling" CD is available for \$2,500 through the NUCA Store at [www.nuca.com](http://www.nuca.com) or directly from us here at Uni-Bell. Simply provide us with your shipping address together with your check or money order. Texas residents will need to add 8.25% sales tax. Refer to order form on page 15.

The next CD in the series, "Job Layout," will also be available this year. Chapters 3 to 5 are titled "Working with Pipe," "Surveys and Grades," and "Testing and Chlorination." They are scheduled to be released in six-month increments