



## ONE CALL CONCEPTS' 'UTILITY DEFENDERS' HAVE ARRIVED TO PROTECT UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

The children's safety awareness brand, created by one of the nation's leading underground utility damage prevention companies, debuted at the 2021 Common Ground Alliance Conference & Expo.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANOVER, MD., OCTOBER 2021

One Call Concepts, Inc. (OCC), a national leader in comprehensive underground utility damage prevention solutions, is thrilled to announce the arrival of the Utility Defenders!

This “groundbreaking” fictional group, which debuted at the 2021 Common Ground Alliance Conference & Expo in Orlando, was created by the Maryland-based company to help kids ages 4 to 9 better understand safe digging—and to be more aware of buried utilities in their homes, schools and neighborhoods. The characters remind kids and adults alike to “Wait! Locate! Before you dig.”

“We think the Utility Defenders are a great resource for anyone wanting to introduce kids to the importance of damage prevention.”

**Dan Florenzo**

OCC President & Chief Financial Officer

Like the Utility Defenders **Facebook page** to see examples of the positive, kid-friendly content that will be posted each week, including activity and coloring sheets, games, lessons, conversation starters and spotlights on real damage prevention heroes.

Through Utility Defenders content, children will:

- Learn about their communities' utility infrastructure
- Be empowered to talk to the adults in their lives about safe digging and to remind grown-ups they know to call 811 (or file an online request) to have utilities located before any digging project
- Understand how to “guard the yard” by being aware of utility marks
- Engage with important mapping, spatial reasoning, science, math and color awareness concepts that are relevant to underground utility safety
- Become aware of future careers in construction and damage prevention-related trades

Read more about the Utility Defenders and learn how to get involved at **utility-defenders.com** and **facebook.com/TheUtilityDefenders**.

One Call Concepts is a national leader in underground utility damage prevention solutions and software, with notification centers that serve 16 states and Washington, D.C. OCC also leads national underground utility awareness outreach via 811 On the Road and the Utility Defenders. Visit us online at **occinc.com**.

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# THE UTILITY DEFENDERS AT A GLANCE

This group of five kid superheroes lives in the fictional town of Mainville, where they attend school and enjoy their favorite hobbies. When the team is alerted to a problem with an underground utility, they don't hesitate to don their superhero gear, leap into action and go wherever utilities are at risk or safety is threatened.



**VAPORA**

**Vapora**, a.k.a Mia Gold, is an amateur paleontologist and a social butterfly. She defends buried gas and oil pipelines, and her superpower is that she can control fire.



**MIA GOLD**



**BIO-BOY**

**Bio-Boy**, a.k.a. Kevin Lee, is a nature lover who is happiest when he's taking in the great outdoors. He defends buried sewer and drain lines, and his superpower is that he can shrink down to the size of an atom.

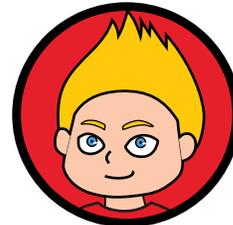


**KEVIN LEE**



**ZAP**

**Zap**, a.k.a. AC Collins, is an energetic athlete who values teamwork above all else. He defends buried electric power lines and wires, and his superpower is that his power-up energy can boost electricity.



**ADAM "AC" COLLINS**



**MARINA**

**Marina**, a.k.a. Florence Diver, loves to splash around the pool or beach. She defends buried drinking water pipes, and her superpower is that she can control the flow of water.



**FLORENCE DIVER**



**SIGNAL**

**Signal**, a.k.a. Gabriel Torres, is all about technology and communication. He defends buried internet and phone lines, and his superpower is that he can move objects with his mind.



**GABRIEL TORRES**

Dora Parks

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**Are you a notification center, facility operator or educator interested in using the Utility Defenders brand to reach young people in your community and spread the word about underground utility safety?**

**Contact Dora Parks to find out how you can get involved.**