



The Scoop

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 4—Winter 2012

Winter Road Safety

Learn how we keep Delmarva roads safe in snowy and icy conditions. **Page 1**

President's Message

Brad Ebaugh gives overview of 2012 and describes plans for 2013. **Page 2**

Safety First

Learn how to safeguard yourself against cold-induced injuries and illnesses. **Page 2**



Stay warm and safe in winter.

Photo courtesy of Frank Dobson

GCDPTC

Read about key highlights from the 2012 conference. **Page 3**

Calendar

Read about upcoming conferences and events of interest to the professional excavator. **Page 4**



Brad Ebaugh presents 2012 Dig Smart Award to Rick Coker of Voshell Brothers Welding.

Photo courtesy of Rick Maloof, Jr.

Winter Road Safety

During the winter months, our most important task is keeping Delmarva roads safe through the effective and efficient control of snow and ice. A well-planned snow and ice removal program includes fleet and equipment inspections, training to familiarize employees with plow routes and operational policies, and constant monitoring of weather forecasts to determine exactly when crews should begin snow removal operations.

In addition to plowing snow, most programs include two main strategies to handle ice:

- **Anti-Icing:** Proactive application of liquid chemicals to roads and bridges prior to the onset of precipitation prevents snow and ice from bonding to the pavement.
- **Deicing:** Traditional winter maintenance strategies include plowing and salt application to break the snow/ice/pavement bond after it has occurred. It requires more material to break the bond than to prevent it.

Recently, state agencies have reduced use of road salt and intensified environmentally friendly practices by using anti-icing treatments on most interstates and major corridors. DeIDOT, for example, pretreats roads with a salt and water mixture known as brine. The water content of brine allows it to be effective days after it is applied to the road surface. Once accumulations reach measurable levels, DeIDOT initiates plowing operations and concentrates first on major routes to ensure they are open and passable as quickly as possible.

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) maintains nearly 17,000 lane miles. It has up to 2,700 people and 2,400 pieces of equipment available to fight winter storms. The SHA monitors Maryland roads from headquarters in Hanover using more than 100 roadway cameras.

To receive the most accurate and up-to-date information on conditions and incidents on snow events in Delaware, the public can visit DeIDOT's Web site at www.deldot.gov, its Twitter account at www.twitter.com/delawaredot, or its Facebook account at www.facebook.com/delawaredot. DeIDOT also provides answers to some frequently asked questions about snow and ice event procedures, emergency numbers, and information on driving restrictions at http://deldot.gov/home/faq_snow/.

Maryland travelers can plan ahead by calling 1-800-327-3125 or by logging onto www.roads.maryland.gov and clicking on "CHART." The Web site offers travel information, snow emergency plans, real-time traffic camera views, weather information, average travel speed maps, and incident-related road closure reports.



Plows clear Forrest Avenue in Dover.

Photo courtesy of Pablo Rivera, DeIDOT

Winter Road Safety continues on page 3

President's Message



Dear Friends,

I can't believe I'm already writing for the winter volume of *The Scoop* and it's time to reflect on what we have accomplished in 2012 and what we hope to work on next year.

- We honored twenty-two locators from Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland at our Fourth Annual Locator Awards Banquet. They do outstanding work in all sorts of weather to protect the public and utilities from damage. Check out our Web site to see who they are (www.missutilitydelmarva.com).
- We again obtained a proclamation from Delaware Governor Jack Markell designating April as Safe Digging Month, sponsored many regional activities, and supported Common Ground Alliance in its national campaign.

- We refurbished our Web site to make it easier to find information and gain access with Call-to-Action buttons that take you directly to the news, events, pictures, and information you seek.
- We elicited the support of firehouses throughout Delmarva to showcase the Call 811 Before You Dig message on their marquees during April.
- Miss Utility advertised with the Shorebirds again this year and participated in many trade associations, conferences, and community events, including Safe Kids, Peach Festivals, and I Love Smyrna School District Day. In addition to these events, the 811 Bike (www.facebook.com/811Bike) appeared at the Delaware State Fair, as did many enthusiasts wishing they could take it for a ride. If you were at the beach on August 11 (811), you may have seen the airplane banner with our safety message: Digging soon? Call 811. It's the law!
- Miss Utility of Delmarva co-sponsored the Fourth Annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference from November 7 through 9 and presented the Second Annual Dig Smart Award to Voshell Brothers Welding. What a pleasure to honor a company that applies such a high standard to its excavation safety program. See the article on page 3 for a full recap of the conference highlights.

Our primary focus for 2013 will be on proposed changes to the Delaware State Law. The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has indicated that it will take action if we do not have tough-enough enforcement provisions in our law. We will continue to meet with our stakeholders to amend the Underground Utility Damage Prevention and Safety section of the Delaware Code.



Too often we do not take the time to thank people. I am blessed to be surrounded by dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours doing the work of Miss Utility. They attend planning and board meetings, map out our strategy, work on committees, set up and man booths at weekend community fairs and expos, analyze damages, and present the Dig Safe message at company safety meetings. This Miss Utility effort would not work without their selfless dedication and hard work. I cannot thank them enough!

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a joyous Holiday Season, and a Happy and Safe New Year!

Sincerely,

Safety First

Protecting Workers from Cold-Induced Illnesses and Injuries

by Frank Dobson

When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related illnesses and injuries may occur, and permanent tissue damage and death may result.

Always Think Safety!

Frank Dobson is president of Dobson Associates Human Performance/Safety Consultants. Visit his Web site at www.dobsonassociates.com.



Photo courtesy of Frank Dobson

Workers are at increased risk when they have predisposing health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and hypertension that require them to take certain medications. (Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacy if any medications you are taking affect you when you work in cold environments.) Many people with such medical conditions also have other issues that put them at greater risk in cold environments, such as poor physical condition, poor diet, or their age.

To counteract these risk factors

- Recognize the environment and workplace conditions that lead to cold-induced illnesses and injuries.
- Learn the signs and symptoms of these cold-induced illnesses and injuries and what to do to help the worker.
- Train the workforce about cold-induced illnesses and injuries.
- Select the proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions. Layer clothing to adjust to changing environmental temperatures. Wear a hat and gloves in

addition to underwear that will keep water away from the skin (polypropylene).

- Take frequent short breaks in warm, dry shelters to allow the body to warm up.
- Perform the work during the warmest part of the day.
- Avoid exhaustion or fatigue, because energy is needed to keep muscles warm.
- Use the buddy system (work in pairs).
- Drink warm, sweet beverages (sugar water, sports-type drinks). Avoid drinks with caffeine (coffee, tea, or hot chocolate) or alcohol.
- Eat warm, high-calorie foods like hot pasta dishes.

Remember: Do not allow your body temperature to drop below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Look for these early signs of hypothermia: drowsiness, fatigue, uncontrolled shivering, cool bluish skin, slurred speech, clumsy movements, and irritable, irrational, or confused behavior.

Source: OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor

Miss Utility of Delmarva Sponsors 2012 GCDPTC

This year's Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC), presented by Miss Utility of Delmarva, Miss Utility of Maryland, District One Call, and more than twenty other sponsors, was held from November 7 through 9 in Ocean City, Maryland, at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel. More than 330 participants from around the region came together to learn and share best practices for preventing underground utility damages.

Over the course of three days, participants attended training sessions and perused the exhibit hall, which featured thirty-four industry vendors. The 811 Bike, created by Paul Jr. Designs for One Call Concepts and unveiled at last year's conference, was also stationed in the exhibit hall.

The conference's training sessions focused on effective underground utility damage prevention, including new technologies for communicating with the one-call center, new locating technologies, and an update on the Delaware Law Change and the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority. The following training sessions were offered at this year's conference:

- Damage Claims: A Roundtable Discussion
- Regional Benefits of the Common Ground Alliance
- OSHA/MOSH Update
- Locating the Unlocatable
- ITIC 2.0

- Overhead Risk: It's Not Just Underground
- Federal Damage Prevention Initiatives
- Damage Prevention Communication: The Utility Factor
- Communicating with First Responders
- Safety Audit: Why the Next Step?
- Delaware Law Change/MUFDPA Update

In addition to the training sessions, the conference featured a keynote presentation by two-time U.S. Olympian and utility damage survivor Cliff Meidl. Meidl gave an inspiring speech recounting his experience hitting three unmarked high-voltage electrical cables while using a jackhammer, severely injuring both knees. Meidl miraculously recovered from his digging injury and went on to compete in the 1996 and 2000 Summer Olympics in the sport of kayaking. In 2000, Meidl was chosen by his peers to be the U.S. flag bearer in Sydney. By sharing his tragedy and triumph, Meidl emphasized the importance of safety on the job site to all conference attendees.

"The fourth year of the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference was an overwhelming success due to the support of our fellow sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and attendees," said Brad Ebaugh, president of Miss Utility of Delmarva. "The level of participation and engagement at the conference grows every year due to the dedicated damage prevention community in the Delmarva region. We truly believe that this conference is instrumental in keeping our Delmarva workers and residents safe from utility damage."



Dave Kertis (left) poses with keynote speaker Cliff Meidl. Photo courtesy of Rick Giammaria, Pepco

Where Are the Minutes?

With all the important information we wanted to share regarding winter safety, the GCDPTC recap, and Miss Utility's year-in-review, we ran out of room!

At the September, October, and November meetings, we discussed key issues such as prudent excavation techniques, electrical safety, how to use Dig Track, and proper procedures for using 811. We also received updates on the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority and the Maryland Broadband Project.

You can always find the complete text of the meeting minutes on our Web site at:

<http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com/Monthly-Meeting-Minutes/>

Even better: Please come to the meetings! Meet your colleagues and share your ideas.

Winter Road Safety continued from page 1

However, we cannot assume that clear roads will ensure our safety. We must also be aware of our own driving habits. During the winter, conditions can change without warning, reducing visibility and creating new hazards on the road. So we all must remember to take extra precautions when we drive during the winter and stay alert for hazardous conditions and other drivers around us.

Read the following safety tips, and share them with your families, friends, and co-workers.

Travel Safety Tips for the Public

- Don't drive during a snowstorm unless absolutely necessary.
- Never pass a snowplow. If you are driving behind a snowplow or salt truck, leave plenty of space behind the truck.
- Remember that bridges, ramps, and overpasses freeze first.
- Remember that four-wheel-drive vehicles are just as vulnerable to slipping on ice as two-wheel-drive vehicles, according to the SHA.

AAA's Top Five Tips

- Remove ice or snow. Take time to remove the snow from the entire car so it doesn't blow onto your windshield or the windshields of other drivers. Clear windows, mirrors, and lights.
- Defrost your locks. Use a lighter to quickly heat the metal tip of your electronic car key so that it can slip into the lock or use a lock deicer. Push car door inward slightly to break the ice around it. Avoid frozen locks by spraying the rubber gasket with dry silicone to prevent ice from adhering to the lock.
- Watch the ice. If you hit an icy patch on the road, steer in the direction you want to go. If the drive wheels start to spin or slide while going up a hill, ease off the accelerator slightly and then gently resume speed. Don't use cruise control in precipitation and freezing temperatures.
- Check visibility. Make sure windshield wipers and defrosters are in good working order.
- Watch others. Now is not the time to be distracted by electronic devices or anything else. Watch other vehicles. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra seconds to react.

Calendar of Events

If you know of an event that would benefit Miss Utility members, please contact **Brad Ebaugh** at BEbaugh@decoop.com, and we will include it on our quarterly calendar of events schedule. Provide the dates, location, and any contact or registration information.

Monthly Miss Utility Meetings

- Thursday, December 20**
Artesian Water
644 Churchmans Road
Newark, DE 19702
- Thursday, January 17**
City of Dover, J. W. Pitts Center
10 Electric Avenue
Dover, DE 19904
- Thursday, February 21**
Place TBD
- Thursday, March 21**
Place TBD

Other Events, Dates TBD

- January**
Annual Meeting
Dover
- February**
Delaware Rural Water Expo
I Love Smyrna School District Day
- March**
Delaware Safety Association
Conference & Expo

	August	September	October
Damages	71	38	35
Tickets	91,564	81,455	87,986
Percentage (damages/tickets)	0.078%	0.047%	0.040%

Are you reporting your damages? If not, why not? It is easy to do. Just go to our Web site and click report damages. Fill in the information, submit, and you are done. Even if you have no damages, please file a report. This helps improve our statistics.

Ask Miss Utility

How long is a locate request valid?

In Delaware, a ticket remains valid if it meets the following three conditions:

- The described work begins within ten working days after the call date.
- The work is continuous.
- The locate marks are intact.

It is the excavator’s responsibility to protect the marks. For large projects, the locator must set up mutually agreeable locate schedules with each facility operator. A ticket becomes invalid if the work does not begin within ten work days of the call date and time, if the work scope changes, or if the locate marks are missing or disturbed in such a way as to cause doubt.

In Maryland, tickets are good for twelve full business days after the day on which the ticket is transmitted by the on-call system to an owner member.

Do you have a question for Miss Utility?

*Send it to Brad Ebaugh at
BEbaugh@decoop.com.*

Editorial Staff

- Bradley C. Ebaugh—President**
- Thomas Matich—Vice President and Chair, Public Awareness Committee**
- James Crowley—Treasurer**
- Jason A. Lyon—Secretary**
- Frank Dobson—Safety Consultant**
- Loretta S. Carlson—Editor**

Contributing Writers: Loretta Carlson, Frank Dobson, Bradley Ebaugh, Thomas Matich, and MGH

Comments?

This is *your* newsletter. Do you like what you see? Do you have an idea for a topic that you think we should cover in upcoming issues? Please send your comments, questions, and suggestions to Brad Ebaugh at BEbaugh@decoop.com



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**