



The Scoop

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3—Fall 2011

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Caught Between Hazard

Photo by Frank Dobson

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Struck By Hazard

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

There is no question that the past several months have posed real challenges for the professional excavator. We've had extreme heat, excessive rain, an earthquake, and finally a hurricane—the most devastating hurricane to hit our region since Isabel in

2003. Despite all the obstacles, we continued to do our jobs, and we performed them safely.

As always, USPCD's number one concern is safety. So we're constantly seeking safety training and certification opportunities for our members. Some of the year's best training opportunities can be found at the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference, which this year takes place from November 2 through 4 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. USPCD is a title sponsor.

Training sessions will cover the following topics:

- Beyond Just Dollars: The Human Cost of a Damage
- Damage Reporting Applications—Benefits of Digital Records
- Federal Damage Prevention Initiatives
- Miss Utility 101
- One-Call Smartphone Application

- One Maryland Broadband Network Update
- Introduction of the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority
- OSHA/MOSH Update
- Regional Benefits of Common Ground Alliance
- Understanding Natural Gas
- "I Was Buried Alive and Survived"

Full information about the conference training sessions along with registration details and sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities can be found at www.missutilitydelmarva.com. Click on the yellow conference banner.

We hope to see you at the conference in Ocean City this fall. So BE SAFE and continue to look out for one another when you're on the job.

Sincerely,

David Kertis

Safety First

OSHA's Top Four Construction Hazards by Frank Dobson

For many years, OSHA has reminded construction workers about the four areas of major concern at construction sites: falls, struck by injuries, caught in/caught between injuries, and electrocutions. OSHA inspectors focus on these four hazards because they account for a significant number of serious injuries and/or fatalities at construction sites each year.

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



Fall Hazard Photo by Frank Dobson

Read below to learn more about OSHA's "Focus Four Inspection" items.

Prevent Falls

- Wear and use personal fall arrest equipment.
- Install and maintain perimeter protection.
- Cover and secure floor openings and label floor opening covers.
- Use ladders and scaffolds safely.

Prevent Struck By Injuries

- Never position yourself between moving and fixed objects.
- Wear high-visibility clothing near equipment/vehicles.

Prevent Caught In/Caught Between Injuries

- Never enter an unprotected trench or excavation 5 feet deep or deeper without an adequate protective system in place. Some trenches less than 5 feet deep may also need such a system.
- Make sure that the trench or excavation is protected either by sloping, shoring, benching, or trench-shielding systems.

Prevent Electrocutions

- Locate and identify utilities before starting to work.

- Look for overhead power lines when operating equipment.
- Maintain a safe distance away from power lines; learn the safe distance requirements.
- Do not operate portable electric tools unless they are grounded or double insulated.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters for protection.
- Be alert to electrical hazards when working with ladders, scaffolds, or other platforms.



Electrical Hazard Photo by Frank Dobson

To prevent accidents, injuries, and fatalities and maintain safe operations on construction sites, we should all cultivate awareness of these four hazards.

Meeting Minutes

June Highlights

1. Facility Owner Concerns

Brad Ebaugh discussed a problem that arose when a company submitted an emergency ticket without including any information on the location. He explained the proper procedure to company representatives and reviewed requirements for identifying a job as an emergency. He requested that all members take the time to educate excavators and facility owners about the do's and don'ts of submitting emergency tickets.

2. General Locate Issues

Judy Lonsdale reminded members that some jobs involve more than one facility owner. Every facility owner must be notified before a job can be cleared. On a recent excavation job in Newark, the excavator correctly notified Delmarva Power but did not clear the job with the City of Newark, which also provided electric services on the job site.

3. Damage Reports

Charlie Russell noted that "Hit Marked Line" accounted for 37.5 percent of damages in Delaware and 50 percent of

damages in Maryland. Delaware's rate of 1.59 damage reports per 1,000 tickets and Maryland's rate of 2.29 damage reports fell below the national average of 4 damage reports per 1,000 tickets.

4. Public Awareness

At Camden Safe Summer Days, committee members Thomas Matich, Bud Swift, and Brad Ebaugh reported they distributed brochures, information sheets, and giveaways to the many visitors who stopped at the Miss Utility booth.

5. Miscellaneous

- More than 100 people have signed up to attend the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference. Three of four meal sponsors have reserved spots at the convention center.
- The Public Service Commission manned a booth at the Delaware State Fair.
- One Call Concepts reported that 94 percent of tickets were handled under the requested threshold.

July Highlights

1. Presentation: Tal Bone, Easton Utilities

Mr. Bone presented a video entitled *Remember Charlie*. The movie recounts the story of Charlie Morecraft, a former Exxon employee, who suffered severe burns

when he tried to take safety shortcuts while responding to a plant emergency. The lesson he learned, and now works to spread to others, is that being safe is more important than trying to maintain a "macho" image. Workers must always follow safety procedures, even when doing a job they have done many times. Charlie emphasized that the personal price he and his family paid in pain and suffering is not worth the time saved with a shortcut in safety.

2. Facility Owner Concerns

Many recent calls show the need for better education of facility owners, contractors, locators, and homeowners. Miss Utility has seen increasing problems with abuse of emergency tickets.

3. One Call Concepts

Matt Ruddo reported that ticket requests continue to fall under the requested threshold. Efforts to educate companies about proper use of "less than 48 hour" tickets seem to be working; total ticket volume of 7 percent represents a decrease from 2010. On another positive note, use of the ITIC system has gone up by 2 percent since 2010; Delaware has the highest ITIC percentage in the United States.

Minutes continue on page 3



Photo by Brad Ebaugh

Wyoming Peach Festival

Miss Utility continues to have a good presence at local events, thanks to the efforts of the Public Awareness Committee.

At the August 6 Wyoming Peach Festival, Richard Cleveland (left) and Thomas Match (right) manned a booth and handed out Frisbees, sun block, cards, and information on safe excavation.

On August 20 at the Middletown Peach Festival, Miss Utility had a booth manned by Jason Lyon, Mark Stillman, and Jack Williams. Miss Utility also will have a booth at the City of Newark Days on September 18.

Minutes continued from page 2

August Highlights

1. Facility Owner Concerns

Brad Ebaugh noted that improper use of emergency tickets continues to be a problem. Members also discussed a number of situations involving excavating companies that did not call in to open job tickets. Some contractors are depending on the ITIC Light system intended for the public and are using tickets called in by the homeowners instead of calling in their own work tickets. Ebaugh stressed that this practice is illegal.

2. General Locate Issues

Mark Stillman discussed a scenario when a locator is asked by homeowners to change the scope of the job while the locator is on the property. He stressed that locators must always mark the location according to the ticket to avoid any liability for damages or injuries.

3. Law Enforcement

Major changes have been proposed to the law:

- Development of a state-authorized governing board
- Creation of a new definition for the term *complex project*
- Limitation of ticket scope to 1,000 continuous feet; requirement to use separate tickets for noncontiguous lots/parcels
- Development of marking standards to reflect requirements of the American Public Works Association
- Requirement for contractor to call if he or she believes that facilities are not properly marked; locator must then mark facilities within two hours
- Requirement for mandatory preconstruction meetings for all complex projects

Improved Outbound Tickets Benefit Users

On June 29, as part of its routine upgrade process, the call center went live with enhancements to the outbound ticket format.

“We are always looking for ways to communicate excavation requests and locator responses in the clearest way possible,” says Vice President Brad Ebaugh. “The more exact and precise the locate request, the better the locators are able to go to the correct work site and identify their underground facilities. Ticket format, headers, and close codes help to clarify these requests and responses.”

Among its benefits, the new ticket format

- Shows the dates and times responses are required. This helps utility members avoid late response charges.
- Offers a new UPDATE heading that identifies continuous site work. This makes it easier for all to see that a remark is needed rather than an all new locate.
- Transmits a DISPUTE label when the excavator disagrees with a ticket closed with a Code 5 status. This allows the affected utility owner/member to contact the excavator and quickly resolve the issue.
- Provides a separate ticket—the One Maryland Broadband Network or OMBN—for the new Maryland intercounty fiber installation project.

The new format does not change the way users access the ITIC system, and users should still contact Matt Ruddo or Dora Parks if they have questions or problems.

Promoting Miss Utility on the Field of Dreams

If you’ve attended a minor league baseball game in Maryland or Delaware this season, you may have encountered one of Miss Utility’s promotional programs. Miss Utility of Delmarva partnered with the Delmarva Shorebirds and the Wilmington Blue Rocks to educate fans throughout the season to contact Miss Utility by calling 811 before beginning any digging project.



Photo courtesy of the Delmarva Shorebirds

Thousands of students participated in the Delmarva Shorebirds Field of Dreams program, which gave teachers the opportunity to incorporate baseball into their curriculum in a way that was fun for them and their students. As the title sponsor of this

program, Miss Utility was featured in promotional items, stadium signs, and public address announcements at the May 3 and May 19 games held at Arthur W. Perdue Stadium.

On August 11—8/11 on the calendar—Delmarva Power and Miss Utility of Delmarva partnered to host \$8.11 ticket night at the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The first 2,000 fans to enter the park received a Wilmington Blue Rocks and 811-branded hat to commemorate this date on the calendar. The promotion served as a great reminder of the importance of calling 811. Miss Utility of Delmarva was well represented with more than fifty industry professionals in attendance.

Calendar of Events

*If you know of an event that would benefit members of the USPCD, 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.*

USPCD Meetings

Thursday, September 15

One Call Concepts
Bear Trap Dunes
7 Clubhouse Drive
Ocean View, Delaware 19970

Thursday, October 20

Artesian Water
664 Churchmans Road
Newark, Delaware 19702

Thursday, November 17

Chesapeake Utilities
32145 Beaver Run Drive
Salisbury, Maryland 21804

Thursday, December 15

City of Newark
220 Elkton Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

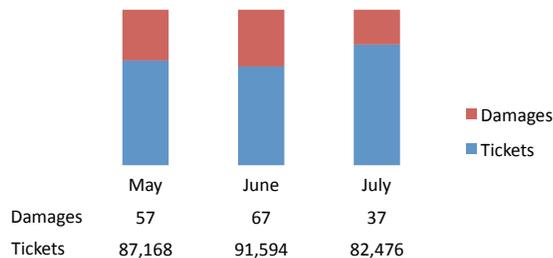
REGISTER NOW FOR THE GREATER CHESAPEAKE DAMAGE PREVENTION TRAINING CONFERENCE

November 2-4, 2011

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Ocean City, Maryland

Go to www.missutilitydelmarva.com
and click on the banner to register.

Ticket Statistics & Reported Damages -2011



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

When I submit a locate request, why won't the locator locate "my" wire?

The short answer is, because it is not really "your" wire.

Miss Utility is funded by the utilities to protect their underground plant and to keep people safe. It is a call center that dispatches locate requests to member utilities so the excavation area may be marked by each utility that has underground facilities in the excavation area. The locators sent by each utility have only the plant records and maps for their specific utility. They have no knowledge of what else is underground. If they tried to guess and located improperly, they could be held liable for any damages or injuries that occurred.

For example, electric company responsibility generally stops at the meter. Lines from the meter to trailers, garages, barns, outbuildings, or other places are not known to the electric company. The property owner owns the wire and must take responsibility for these lines. If the contractor or homeowner is going to excavate beyond the meter, a law-abiding and prudent excavator would contact a private locating company and have the lines located. The same holds true for sewer laterals and, in many cases, service water and gas lines.

Utilities are responsible for locating their cables, lines, and pipes. Owner-owned infrastructure is the owner's responsibility. Although private locating companies are in many cases contracted by utilities to respond to Miss Utility tickets, they are also in business to locate non-utility (owner) underground facilities. A list of companies that are members of USPCD, Inc., is available on the Miss Utility Web site at www.missutilitydelmarva.com.

Do you have a question for Miss Utility?

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

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Brad Ebaugh, Nick Kelly, David Kertis, and Jason Lyon

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.