



The Scoop

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 4—Fall 2012

GCDPTC Returns

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2000 Summer Olympics, Sydney, Australia

Photo courtesy of Cliff Meidl

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Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference Returns to Ocean City

Miss Utility of Delmarva, Miss Utility of Maryland, and District One Call will once again bring you the premier damage prevention event in the region as title sponsors for the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC). The 2012 GCDPTC will be held from November 7 through 9 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland.

Last year's event was a major success with more than 320 damage prevention partners in attendance. Our goal is to continue to build on this success and once again bring together the largest annual gathering of industry stakeholders in our region for three days of education and networking.

With the start of a new fiscal year, many companies, associations, and government agencies are investigating training programs for their employees. If you are looking for new opportunities to train and educate your staff in damage prevention, we ask that you consider attending the GCDPTC. This conference brings together contractors, locators, facility owners, regulators, and others from our region—creating an ideal opportunity to receive the best and most relevant training available from experts in their fields.



Photo courtesy of Shell

We have many exciting new offerings planned as well as returning favorites. For example:

- The 811 Bike, designed by Paul Jr. Designs and featured on the Discovery Channel series *American Chopper*, will be displayed in the exhibit hall.
- Cliff Meidl, who is a two-time Olympic kayaker and survivor of a utility accident, will be this year's conference keynote speaker.
- We have scheduled an exciting lineup of new and returning conference sessions. Visit the **official conference Web site** to see the full list of sessions offered.



Photo courtesy of Cliff Meidl

Conference registration can be completed online at the 2012 GCDPTC Web site, which can be found by going to <http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com/> and clicking on the official conference logo. There are also opportunities still available for organizations that are interested in sponsorships or exhibits. We hope to see many new and returning faces in Ocean City this November.

President's Message



Dear Friends:

Thanks for checking in with us. It has been a busy summer with many opportunities to see you at the monthly Miss Utility meetings, trade conferences, golf outings, community festivals, "Safe Summer" events, and company safety meetings. At the Delaware State Fair, many of you saw the Paul Jr. 811 Bike and spoke with our board members and volunteers. I hope you were lucky enough to be at the beach and see the 811 message banner—"Digging Soon, Call 811, It's the Law"—towed by airplane along Delaware and Maryland beaches on August 11 (811 day).

The opportunities will continue this fall and will include the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference, which will be held from November 7 through 9 in Ocean City, Maryland. This annual event gives you the chance to train your managers and staff, catch up on the latest news and law changes, and network with other excavation and utility members.

For another type of opportunity: Did you hear about our redesigned Miss Utility Web site? We cleaned up the format and added quick links that will get you where you need to go with fewer mouse clicks. We added separate links for homeowners and excavators so they can quickly obtain needed information. A new link on the Home page zips you right to the Search and Status page so you can see exactly who has and has not cleared your locate request. A frequently asked question (FAQ) link will be continually expanded so most of your questions can be answered instantly. Facebook and YouTube links will keep you hooked up to what's happening through social media.

We hope our improved Web site helps facilitate better communication in our community. Every locator who was honored at this year's Fourth Annual Locator Awards Banquet emphasized the need for good communication. Our new Web site will allow us to easily post pictures of all Miss Utility events and highlight locators and companies

that act professionally, protect the utilities, and keep the public safe.

As always, public safety is a great concern. We focus on education so those who dig will call and have the utilities marked. A trend that concerns me involves our cut reports, which repeatedly show that 50 percent of the cut utility lines were correctly marked! This means that an excavator took the time and effort to call in a locate request, the utilities sent their locators or contract locators out to mark their facilities, and then "someone" dug where the utility was marked and caused damage. Maryland and Delaware laws tell us that we cannot use mechanical digging equipment within the tolerance zone. The Delaware tolerance zone is defined as the width of the facility plus 2 feet on either side of the outside edge of the underground facility in a horizontal plane. In Maryland, an 18-inch "no mechanized equipment" zone became a statewide requirement for excavations. Before you can use mechanical excavation techniques in the tolerance zone, best practice is to first expose the utility using "soft" techniques.

Remember: It's the law. Call, Wait for Responses, Respect Markings, and Dig Safely!

Sincerely,

Safety First

Pneumatic Nail Guns by Frank Dobson

Each year, safety experts review the different types of hand and power tool accidents and incidents. Invariably, the nail gun causes some very serious injuries that require hospitalization or medical treatment. Nail guns drive nails into building materials—some of which are extremely dense. But our body parts are not as dense as the building materials, and so we sustain penetrating injuries of body parts such as the torso, hands, feet, face, and head.

Always Think Safety!

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

Hazards

Both operators and their co-workers are at risk of injury.

Nails can

- Splinter or blow out fragments from the material.
- Puncture the back of the material.
- Fire completely through the material and strike workers behind the nailing surface.
- Pose contact hazards, such as nails striking electrical wires.

Common Tool Types

Sequential tools require nose contact, or they must be depressed before the trigger is pulled.

- This two-step sequence makes accidental firing less likely.
- You can use sequential tools for most nailing tasks.

Contact tools fire whenever the trigger and nosepiece are both depressed.

- You can hold the trigger down for "bump firing." This continuous pressure on the trigger allows rapid delivery of the nails.
- You can use contact tools for nailing on flat surfaces.



Photo courtesy of Frank Dobson

CAUTION: If you depress the trigger on contact tools, they will fire anytime the nose is depressed. Such action can also cause the unwanted firing of nails.

Pneumatic Guns continues on page 3

Meeting Minutes

June Highlights

1. Presentation: Heat Emergencies

Mark Gemmill of Tidewater Utilities gave a presentation on the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke can lead to organ and/or brain damage if left untreated. Everyone who works outside should be aware of the heat index, a number that indicates how hot it feels and that is not necessarily the same as the actual air temperature. A heat index above 90 degrees is considered dangerous. Outside workers should wear sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater and schedule vigorous activity before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

2. General Locate Issues

A construction supervisor with Tidewater Utilities asked if sites could be marked with both flags and paint. Group agreed that it is the locator's responsibility to verify the surface and environmental conditions in the field and determine what marking methods should be used. Conditions that may affect markings include rain, snow, vegetation, high traffic, and construction. Flags should not be used in place of paint. Good communication between locators and contractors will ensure that all projects proceed without incident. Mark Gemmill asked if tickets could include a field for entering development names to help locators find work sites. Brian Simmons said that development names can be inserted in the Remarks section when the caller places the ticket request.

3. Public Awareness

Thomas Match solicited new members for the Public Awareness Committee. He would like to focus renewed energy on making this a more active representative of Miss Utility in

the community. In June, committee members attended the Chicken Festival in Salisbury and Camden Safe Kids Day at Brecknock Park.

July Highlights

1. Presentation: Are You Playing with a Full Deck?

Jim Crowley of Easton Utilities presented a video highlighting the dangers of inattentive driving and promoting a five-step process for becoming a more focused driver: Aim High in Steering, Get the Big Picture, Keep Your Eyes Moving, Leave Yourself an Out, and Make Sure They See You.

2. General Locate Issues

Steve Crawford of Skyline gave an update on the broadband build on the Eastern Shore. By the end of the summer, he anticipates the ticket load will significantly decrease. Members also discussed a serious incident that occurred in Wicomico County when a drilling contractor operating on an invalid ticket damaged gas lines. Thomas Match noted that Miss Utility's own protocols call for Miss Utility to send a notification letter to the party at fault and follow up with the attorney general as necessary.

3. One Call Concepts

Dora Parks reported that all dates, content, and sessions have been finalized for the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference. Cliff Meidl will be the keynote speaker. They have eighteen sponsors and fifteen exhibitors.

4. New Business

Dora Parks also provided an update on progress toward implementing the Kappa Map. One Call Concepts finalized testing of the first three counties and will work with members to make any necessary adjustments. Companies will receive map books before the new grid goes live.

August Highlights

1. Safety Message

Brad Ebaugh reiterated the importance of driver safety. He played videos illustrating traffic incidents and how drivers can avoid such incidents by remaining fully focused on traffic, other drivers, and road conditions.

2. Vendor Presentations

- Mike Friedl of MJ Friedl and Associates spoke about products his company sells, including cable fault locating systems from HDW Electronics and surface penetrating radar from U.S. Radar.
- Mike Cutright described new 3M™ DynateI™ marking tape that emits a detectable signal. The locator will pick up tape and marking balls, which contain information locators can use for mapping.
- Jim Verga spoke about a method for ensuring that detectable tape—which can disintegrate after a few years—is locatable before authorizing project start-up.

3. Excavator Concerns

Judy Lonsdale mentioned two companies in Maryland that have damaged Verizon cables. Brad Leto recommended that Verizon take its grievance to the Maryland Authority. Another issue in Maryland involved a company digging on an expired ticket. The contractor was directed to call in a new ticket.

4. General Locate Issues

Mark Gemmill said DeIDOT asked Tidewater about the depth of a water main. Jason Lyon noted that companies need to check franchise agreements with the state to determine who is responsible for providing such information. Thomas Match said DeIDOT has a SUE company (which identifies and manages the subsurface utility information needed for specific projects) to soft dig utilities at construction sites.

Pneumatic Guns continued from page 2

Safe Work Practices and Personal Protective Equipment

- Follow the manufacturer's tool labels and operating manual.
- Wear safety glasses with side shields.
- Never defeat or modify safety features.
- Keep fingers away from the trigger when not driving nails.
- Use sequential tools for a reduced risk of accidental and double firing.
- Avoid the line-of-fire hazards in front of and behind material. Position yourself (especially your free hand) out of the line of fire. Never point a nail gun at anyone.

Watch for co-workers behind the nailing surface.

- Disconnect guns to perform maintenance or clear jams. Move to another work area.
- Train on safe operating procedures and proper body placement, and use the correct personal protective equipment.

NOTE: All tools must meet the applicable OSHA guarding standards.

- 29 CFR 1910.241-244 Subpart P, Hand and Power Tools
- 29 CFR 1926.300-302 Subpart I, Hand and Power Tools
- 29 CFR 1926.95-102 Subpart E, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Always think safety first. Before these workers from DEC began digging, they called in the ticket to ensure that all utilities—not just DEC—marked the location of their lines. Remember: Before you dig in the tolerance zone, you must use nondestructive means to locate and verify the depth of all utility lines.

Photo by Brad Ebaugh

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, September 20

One Call Concepts, Inc.
Bear Trap Dunes Clubhouse
7 Clubhouse Drive
Ocean View, DE 19970

Thursday, October 18

Artesian Water
644 Churchmans Road
Newark, DE 19702

Thursday, November 15

Chesapeake Utilities
32145 Beaver Run Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804

Thursday, December 20

Place TBD

Other Events

September 16

Newark Community Day

October 5

Delaware Rural Water Association
Milford Elks Lodge, Milford, DE

Other Events, continued

November 7-9

Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference
Ocean City, MD

	May	June	July
Damages	57	60	39
Tickets	91,865	85,285	87,781
Percentage (damages / tickets)	0.062%	0.070%	0.044%

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

I am one of several contractors working on a construction project. I arrived on the site today and saw other Miss Utility marks already on the ground. Why do I have to call in another ticket and make the locators mark the area again? Isn't this a waste of time?

Great question. You should call in another ticket for several reasons:

1. The law says you must call in a ticket if you are going to dig. If you dig and damage a utility line and have not called in your own ticket, you may be liable for all the damages, restoration, and loss of revenue. The call is free, so it makes economic sense to obey the law.
2. If Company A calls in a ticket on the same site where you are planning to dig, it may have a different scope of work than you. Its locate request might not mark facilities in the area where your company will be excavating. You put your employees at risk if you do not know what's below.
3. New facilities may have been put in since those locate requests were closed. You may be digging on marks that are dated, putting your employees and your financial standing at risk.

So to ensure the safety of your employees and save possible financial penalties, call in every ticket. If those reasons aren't enough to convince you, remember: It's the law.

Do you have a question for Miss Utility?

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

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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.