



The Scoop

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2—Summer 2010

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

We are now into construction season, and we need to heighten our safety awareness and avoid the distractions that can lead to accidents.

Statistics from Common Ground Alliance (CGA) show that one of every two homeowners fails to call 811 before they begin digging at their homes. CGA also reports that

utility damage—and, potentially, an injury—occurs every three minutes in the United States because people do not call 811 and do not follow safe digging practices.

In 2008, CGA reported that 37% of all damages were caused by failures to notify Miss Utility (811), and another 37% were caused by improper digging practices. As you can see, damages could be reduced significantly if people call 811 and use safe digging practices.

April was National Safe Digging Month (NSDM). The states of Delaware and Maryland are strong supporters of NSDM. The governors of both states joined other governors from around the country in issuing

proclamations declaring April 2010 as safe digging month.

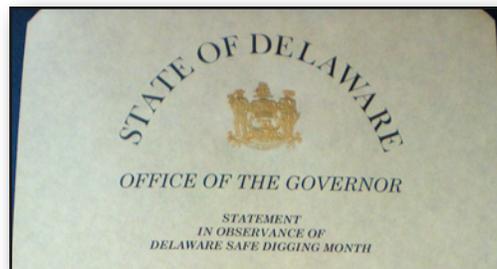
Miss Utility of Delmarva also was very proactive for NSDM. We reached out to more than 250,000 customers through media coverage on WBOC16 and WDEL1150. We also publicized NSDM in the *Dover Post*, *Community Pub*, *Milford Beacon*, *Middletown Transcript*, *Newark Post*, *Sussex Countian*, and other publications.

During April, we all worked diligently to communicate the importance of following safe digging practices. However, we need to keep communicating this message. With your help, we can continue to spread the word about SAFE DIGGING and 811.

Remember to be safe, follow safe digging practices, and follow the Miss Utility laws wherever you are working. Please be SAFE and DIG CAREFULLY this summer.

Sincerely,

Dave Kertis



Safety First

OSHA's Electrical Safety Guidelines by Frank Dobson

Electrical power is essential to the construction site and to the manufacturing site. However, electrical power has long been recognized as a serious workplace hazard, exposing employees to such dangers as serious burns, electrical shock, electrocution, fires, and explosions. It is sometimes referred to as the "silent killer." Electrical hazards account for more than one hundred workplace fatalities each year in the United States.

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

Safety Doesn't Cost . . . It Pays

Here are some of OSHA's Safety Tips for working safely around electrical hazards both on and off the job.

- Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.
- Never touch a fallen overhead power line. Call the electric utility company to report fallen electrical lines.
- Stay at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from overhead wires during operations, cleanup, and other activities. If working at heights or handling long objects, survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires.
- If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside



the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Warn other people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. Call or ask someone to call the local electric utility company and emergency services.

- Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water.
- Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless you are qualified and authorized.
- Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that has gotten wet before energizing it.
- If you are working in damp locations, inspect electrical cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects, and always use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Always use caution when working near electricity.

Photo on the left and photo on page 1 courtesy of Frank Dobson

Meeting Minutes

March Highlights

1. Emergency Preparedness

Roy Simonson of the City of Newark gave a presentation on damage preparedness plans for municipalities and companies, specifically focusing on the importance of having written procedures that are clear and easy to follow in the event of a disaster.

2. PHMSA Review

Alex Dankanich reviewed pipeline emergency guidelines from the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), noting that the federal government offers free emergency training programs. PHMSA is planning to develop performance measures at the state level and will soon begin enforcing its rules at the state level.

3. Excavator Concerns

Brad Leto, Guardian Construction, reminded everyone of the importance of meeting with locators before completing engineering designs on any project and using design tickets to plan projects. He also reviewed specific rules for marking properties.

4. One Call Concepts

Matt Ruddo reviewed the monthly report and noted that Internet Ticketing (ITIC), a system for entering tickets through the Internet as opposed to calling a ticket in over the phone, is approaching 70 percent. He

also reviewed the latest news on Maryland Senate Bill 911/House Bill 1290: Both the Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Association of Counties oppose the law. The marking fee was put back into the law, but the storm sewer location provisions were removed.

April Highlights

1. Analysis of PHMSA Program

Board President Dave Kertis reviewed the State of Delaware's damage prevention program and concluded that, although some elements could be improved, the overall program conforms to the PHMSA Damage Prevention Program criteria.

2. Excavator Concerns

Brad Ebaugh led discussions about a company that is currently identifying about 90 percent of its tickets as emergency tickets and requested ideas from the group on how to handle this problem.

3. Locator Concerns

Dave Kertis described an incident when a utility company told a contractor to call in multiple tickets to generate more income. The law states that an area is to be marked out under one ticket, as long as the scope is justifiable. Additional tickets are not needed.

4. One Call Concepts

Matt Ruddo noted that the ITIC percentage dropped for the first time in recent memory. Maryland Senate Bill 911/House Bill 1290 is ready for the governor's signature.

May Highlights

1. 3M Dynatel Locator

Mike Cutright demonstrated the features of the Dynatel Locator, which locates marker balls using a GPS system. The information in the marker balls can be inserted into a GPS system. It can also read two separate utilities in close proximity to one another.

2. Excavator Issues

Brad Ebaugh requested that USPCD check on status of issues regarding Sobieski Mechanical emergency tickets. USPCD is considering adopting a letter used by the State of New Jersey for dealing with abuse of emergency tickets.

3. Locator Issues

Group discussed how to track ongoing tickets. An updated ticket is not needed if the contractor is working continuously on a site and the marks remain intact.

4. Law Enforcement Committee

The committee met on May 12 and proposed the development of a new enforcement policy. The board will review the proposal before a final decision is made.

5. Other News

- Two new members: Under/Comm and Fermanagh-Abruzzi Concrete.
- One Call Concepts provided definitions for the terms *insufficient* and *short tickets*.
- 100 people have already signed up for the GCDPTC conference in October. The goal is to have at least 300 attendees.

Natural Gas Pipelines

Safe, Sound, and Underground

The nation's natural gas delivery system includes approximately 2.2 million miles of pipelines and serves 69 million customers. Delmarva Power has more than 3,200 miles of natural gas lines and serves more than 123,000 homes and businesses in the regulated natural gas market in New Castle County, Delaware.

The Office of Pipeline Safety, within the U.S. Department of Transportation, develops and implements gas pipeline safety regulations at the federal level and shares regulatory responsibility with the states. To ensure the safety, integrity, and efficiency of the Delmarva Power gas transmission system, we have developed a Pipeline Integrity Management Program.

Although underground pipelines are a proven, safe method of transporting energy, keeping a sound safety record is a responsibility that we all share. Here are some tips regarding natural gas awareness and safety that may help you to prevent a natural gas accident:

- Review all brochures and mailings sent by natural gas or energy providers to gain a better understanding of what your local utility is doing to enhance the safety and integrity of its natural gas equipment.



• If you receive a natural gas scratch-and-sniff card, take the time to become familiar with the odor. Natural gas is mixed with a chemical odorant, giving it a unique and unpleasant smell.

• Call 811 before you dig. Know your state's One-Call notification requirements before planning or performing any type of excavation work on your property.

• Keep your natural gas utility's emergency phone number in a readily accessible location.

- If you use natural gas at home, take a moment to locate your gas meter and indoor piping and appliances. Gas meters may be

Delmarva Power natural gas safety brochures can be found at www.delmarva.com. For more information on natural gas pipeline safety, visit the following web sites:

American Gas Association: www.aga.org

Office of Pipeline Safety: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/GeneralPublic.htm>

Common Ground Alliance: www.commongroundalliance.com

U.S. Department of Transportation: www.digsafely.com

Pipeline 101: www.pipeline101.com

For more information about the Pipeline Integrity Management Program, call 302.429.3315.

For a copy of a Delmarva Power scratch-and-sniff brochure, call 302.429.3315.

located inside or outside your home or business. Keep the area around your meter clear and protected from damage.

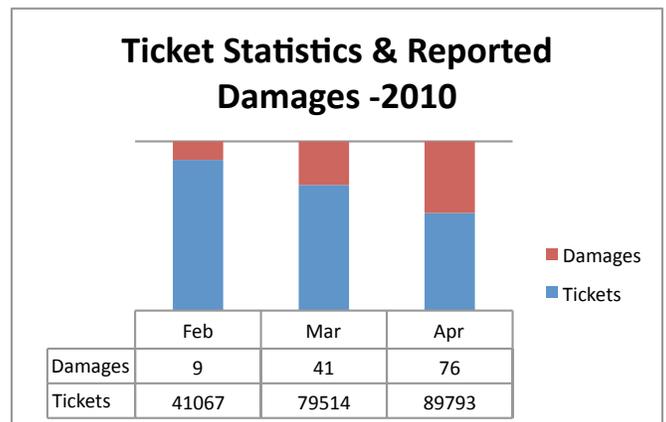
- Be alert for loud hissing noises from cracks or holes in the ground or bubbling patches of water. They may indicate an underground gas leak. A loud hissing noise can also emanate from aboveground piping if a leak is present. In either case, call 911.
- If you smell gas in your home or place of business, do not touch anything. Alert others, leave the premises, and call 911 and your local natural gas utility from a safe distance away. Under specific conditions, natural gas can ignite by a simple action such as turning an electrical switch or phone on or off.
- Never attempt to modify natural gas equipment on your own. If repairs or modifications are needed, contact a natural gas service professional.
- Examine natural gas pipeline identifiers/markers for pertinent company and contact information. Natural gas equipment is typically identified with a bright yellow marker.
- Protect natural gas equipment from malicious actions, such as vandalism or acts of terrorism. If you see suspicious activity occurring at a known natural gas facility, call 911 immediately.

By taking a proactive role to learn about pipeline safety, you will be better equipped to recognize and react to a natural gas emergency.

Locator Award Winners



(front) Jonathan Carrington, George Freeman, Rich Majors, Staci Dickerson, Petie Davis; (back) Doug Gould, Thomas Matich, Mark Gemmill, William Docca, John DiMaio, Thomas Preller, Antwine Davis



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.

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, June 17

Easton Utilities Commission
201 N. Washington Street
Easton, Maryland

Thursday, July 15

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

Golf: Tee times have been reserved immediately following lunch. Bear Trap Dunes requires proper golf attire at all times. No jeans or tee shirts on the course.

RSVP to Matt Ruddy
(matt@missutility.net).
Space is limited.

Thursday, August 19

Delmarva Power
4100 S. Wakefield Drive
Newark, Delaware

Thursday, September 16

United Water
2000 First State Boulevard
Wilmington, Delaware

Thursday, October 14

City of Wilmington
101 Terminal Avenue
Wilmington, Delaware

Save the Date Now!

The 2010 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference will be held October 20-22 in Ocean City, Maryland.



Ask Miss Utility

What is Ticket Check[®] and how can I tell if a ticket has been located?

All utilities in the State of Delaware are required to provide a positive response to all locate requests, except meeting and designer tickets. As an excavator, you can verify your ticket status using Ticket Check[®] by calling a special toll free number: 1.800.821.4226. A voice will prompt you through the steps to receive status on your tickets. You will be asked to enter your 10-digit contractor number. Please use the contact telephone number you provided when you initially called Miss Utility.

You may also use Search & Status[®] to view/print tickets and check the status of your tickets at Ticket Check[®] by going to www.missutility.net. More information is available at the USPCD web site (www.missutilitydelmarva.com) and the Miss Utility web site (www.missutility.net).

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.