



# The Scoop



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 5—Winter 2013

## Guidelines for Excavation Requests

Read this refresher on how to use special excavation request notices.

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Worker chipping concrete with a jackhammer while using a wet method. Photo courtesy of NIOSH

## Another Successful GCDPTC

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## Poor Planning Is No Excuse for Misusing Emergency Tickets

Miss Utility of Delmarva understands that situations arise when it is not possible to wait the two business days required to issue Normal Excavation Notices. For this reason, we offer Emergency Notices, Insufficient Notices, and Short Notices.

However, Emergency, Insufficient, and Short Notice tickets are not to be used to circumvent the requirement to wait two full working days before excavation begins. Poor planning and trying to shortcut the system are not valid reasons for calling in Emergency tickets. By not following the proper procedure, you risk exposing yourself to liability for utility damages.

### Emergency Notices

The state laws for both Delaware and Maryland clearly define what constitutes an emergency location. An emergency exists only when one or both of the following conditions exist:

- The unforeseen excavation, if not performed, could present a danger to life, health, or property.
- An unstable condition exists that may result in specific conditions listed in the laws (for example, a leak in any service or main or a fault in a primary or secondary wire and/or cable).

When calling in an emergency excavation, inform the Notification Center operator that an emergency situation exists and be prepared to explain which of the above conditions is in effect. The Notification Center will prepare the ticket for immediate transmission. However, the excavator must understand that positive responses must be received from all the members involved via Ticket Check or the excavation may not begin. If you begin excavation or demolition

without such verification, you are in violation of the law and may be held liable for any direct or indirect damages that occur.

### Insufficient and Short Notices

On occasion, a contractor may need to start excavation work more quickly than the response time specified under the Delaware and Maryland state laws. For this reason, the Call Center offers Insufficient Notice and Short Notice tickets. Contractors submitting these ticket types request that all notified utility owner-members respond with locates in a reduced time period. *The Call Center cannot guarantee that the contractor will be granted a reduced response time.* Again, callers must understand that they need to receive positive responses from all the members involved via Ticket Check before beginning the excavation. If approval is not received from all the owner-members involved, the excavation should not begin. If you begin excavation or demolition without such verification, you are in violation of the law and may be held liable for any direct or indirect damages that occur.

Although Miss Utility acknowledges the necessity of using Emergency, Insufficient, and Short Notice tickets, abuse of these special locate requests will not be tolerated. Taking advantage of these notifications for the wrong reasons has a negative impact on locators and the utility companies they represent. It also could lead to further delay in marking the job, mandatory Miss Utility education and/or fines, or even restrictions placed on your notification ability. If you have a true emergency, designate a responsible person on the job site and provide the Call Center with this person's contact phone number.

Whatever you do, do not dig without a valid Miss Utility ticket. Always make sure you receive a positive response from all notified owner-members. If you have further questions, go to the Contact Us page at [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com). Please dig safely, my friends.

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

We are bombarded on a daily basis with choices about everything we do. In many cases, the choice may be obvious, but we still have to choose. Some choices are easy, while others are more difficult. Whether or not to require their workforces to obey the law, engage in safe excavation practices, and utilize the Miss Utility ticket process is a choice all companies performing excavations face. We recently honored one company for making the right choice.

I am pleased to tell you that Danella Construction Corporation is the winner of this year's Dig Smart Award, which was presented in October at the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention and Training Conference (GCDPTC). Danella, a non-utility member of Miss Utility of Delmarva, not only follows

good damage prevention and safe excavation practices, it also is involved in many activities sponsored by Miss Utility. During the past year, Danella representatives attended monthly Miss Utility general membership meetings, participated in and exhibited at the GCDPTC, and offered input on safe excavation practices. This company made a series of good choices.

I am mystified why owners of underground facilities—even as members of Miss Utility—choose to ignore the Maryland and Delaware state "Miss Utility" laws. Miss Utility exists to operate a call center to gather information about excavation intentions of homeowners, contractors, and utilities. Miss Utility sends this information to the underground utility owners so they can mark their facilities, which

in turn ensures that excavators can "miss the utilities" and keep their workforces safe.

From an economic perspective, the cost of a Miss Utility ticket is insignificant compared to a wrongful death lawsuit or having an employee disabled due to hitting an unmarked underground utility. Eventually Delaware will follow suit with Maryland and include enforcement in its law. Then, perhaps, economics will nudge more homeowners' associations, developments, municipalities, and other owners of underground utilities to choose to become members of Miss Utility.

We made joining an easy choice. The membership form is on the Miss Utility Web site ([www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com)), and membership is free. You pay for a Miss Utility locate ticket only when someone is going to dig on your property. Making the choice to follow the law is a very small price to pay for keeping people safe, protecting your facilities, and knowing that you are doing the right thing.

You have many choices every day. Make the right choice and become a member of Miss Utility. Join like-minded professionals that want to reduce utility damages and keep everyone safe. It's your choice.

Sincerely,



Brad Ebaugh (right) presents Dig Smart Award to Danella's Ken Bless as Judy Lonsdale, a member of the Dig Smart Award Committee, looks on.

*Photo courtesy of Delaware Electric Cooperative*

## Safety First Silicosis

by Frank Dobson

*Silicosis is a progressive, disabling, and often-fatal lung disease caused by exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust. Crystalline silica is a basic component of soil, granite, and most other types of rock, and it is used as an abrasive blasting agent. Cigarette smoking adds to the lung damage caused by silica.*

### Effects of Silicosis

- Lung cancer (Silica has been classified as a human lung carcinogen.)
- Bronchitis/chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD)
- Tuberculosis (Silicosis makes an individual more susceptible to tuberculosis.)
- Scleroderma (This disease affects skin, blood vessels, joints, and skeletal muscles.)
- Possible renal disease

### Symptoms of Silicosis

- Shortness of breath; possible fever
- Fatigue; loss of appetite
- Chest pain; dry, nonproductive cough
- Respiratory failure, which may eventually lead to death

### Sources of Exposure

- Sandblasting for surface preparation
- Crushing and drilling rock and concrete
- Masonry and concrete work (for example, building and road construction/repair)
- Mining/tunneling; demolition work
- Cement and asphalt pavement manufacturing

### Preventing Silicosis

- Use all available engineering controls such as blasting cabinets and local exhaust ventilation. Avoid using compressed air for cleaning.

- Use water sprays and other wet methods for cutting, chipping, drilling, sawing, and grinding.
- Substitute non-crystalline silica blasting material.
- Use respirators approved for protection against silica; if sandblasting, use respirators approved for abrasive blasting activities.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke near crystalline silica dust.
- Wash hands and face before eating, drinking, or smoking, and always eat, drink, and smoke away from exposure areas.

**Remember:** You Only Need a Few Minutes More to Do the Job Safely—and Your Life Is Worth Every Minute.

*Always Think Safety!*

*Frank Dobson is president of Dobson Associates Human Performance/Safety Consultants. Visit his Web site at [www.dobsonassociates.com](http://www.dobsonassociates.com).*

## GCDPTC Draws Industry Professionals from Across Region

The fifth annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC) was held from October 23 through 25 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. More than 330 facility operators, locators, excavators, regulators, engineers, and other professionals from around the region came together to learn and share best practices in preventing damages to underground utilities.

The conference featured twenty-two sponsors in addition to lead hosts Miss Utility of Delmarva, Miss Utility of Maryland, and District One Call, as well as thirty-two exhibitors. Attendees had the opportunity to see a number of exhibits, including the 811 Bike designed by Paul Jr. Designs and featured on the Discovery Channel series *American Chopper*.

One highlight of the 2013 GCDPTC was the keynote speech given by First Sergeant Matt Eversmann (Ret.), one of the heroic U.S. soldiers immortalized in the film *Black Hawk Down* and the 2004 book *The Battle of Mogadishu*. This October marked twenty years since the infamous battle took place, and Eversmann's remarkable story amazed the audience. The 2013 GCDPTC also offered attendees an exciting lineup of twelve different educational sessions, including "Damage Investigation Best Practices," "Hurricane Sandy: Lessons Learned," and "Damage Prevention Jeopardy."

"I would like to thank our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, attendees, and Matt Eversmann for making the conference's fifth year a

resounding success," said Matt Ruddy, chairman of the GCDPTC. "Thanks to the dedication and participation of the damage prevention community in our region, the conference continues to grow year after year."

Be sure to save the date for the 2014 GCDPTC, which will take place from October 28 through 31, 2014, in Ocean City. Visit [www.missutilityconference.com](http://www.missutilityconference.com) for updates about next year's conference.

### Congratulations!

Donald Carmean, a utility locator for the sewer and water department of Sussex County, responded to our September request for comments on *The Scoop* and won the drawing for the \$100 gift card.

This is your newsletter. We welcome your comments, article ideas, and suggestions for improvement at any time. Thank you!



Thomas Matich (left) presents gift card to Donald Carmean.

## Meet Dwayne Olivieri USPCD's Newest Board Member

A supervising engineer with Delmarva Power, Dwayne Olivieri is the newest member of the USPCD board of directors.

Dwayne has spent the majority of his career with Delmarva Power in Gas Engineering and Gas Operations, although he began his professional life as a chemical engineer. After earning a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Drexel University, he worked in the chemical industry for seven years.



Photo by Danielle Olivieri

"The chemical industry is cyclical in nature," he says. "That translated to a lot of moves to a lot of different places. I switched to the utility industry because I knew it would be challenging, and it would allow me to settle in one place."

Joining Delmarva Power in 1991, Dwayne first worked in Environmental Affairs on the environmental compliance staff. After four years in that position, he moved to Gas Operations, where he led a group responsible for gas regulators, SCADA, and

odorization. In early 2013, Dwayne accepted his current position in Gas Engineering, where he supervises five in-house locators and works with personnel from Premier Utility Services.

Because of his involvement in the utility industry, Dwayne says he's known about Miss Utility for many years. However, he never had an active role in the organization until he became Delmarva Power's liaison to Miss Utility in August.

"I'm happy to be part of something so important," he says. "I had no idea how much work goes on behind the scenes."

Dwayne, who also has an MBA in finance and a professional engineer license, is married with two children. He enjoys playing baseball in the MSBL and volunteers much of his time working with his son and other athletes in the Special Olympics.

### Where Are the Minutes?

With all the important information we wanted to share about excavation notices, the 2013 GCDPTC, and silicosis, we ran out of room!

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

[www.missutilitydelmarva.com/Monthly-Meeting-Minutes/](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com/Monthly-Meeting-Minutes/)

Even better: Please come to the meetings to meet your colleagues, share ideas, and learn about our industry's best practices. Come see what you've been missing.

# Calendar of Events

If you know of an event that would benefit Miss Utility members, please contact **Thomas Matich** at [tmatich@milford-de.gov](mailto:tmatich@milford-de.gov), and we will include it on our quarterly calendar of events schedule. Provide the dates, location, and any contact or registration information.

## Miss Utility Meetings

### Thursday, December 19

Artesian Water  
644 Churchmans Road  
Newark, DE 19702

### Thursday, January 16

City of Dover  
J. W. Pitts Center  
10 Electric Avenue  
Dover, DE 19904

### Thursday, February 20

Verizon  
Hilton Garden Inn  
1706 N. DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

### Thursday, March 20

City of Wilmington  
Turner Municipal Complex  
500 Wilmington Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19801

### Thursday, April 17

City of Milford  
Carlisle Fire Company  
615 NW Front Street  
Milford, DE 19963

### Thursday, May 15

Tidewater Utilities  
1100 S. Little Creek Road  
Dover, DE 19901

	August	September	October
Reported Damages	27	32	30
Tickets	87,644	77,731	86,142
Percentage (damages / tickets)	0.031%	0.041%	0.035%

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.

## Other Events

### Saturday, February 22

8:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m.  
I Love Smyrna Day  
Smyrna High School  
500 Duck Creek Parkway  
Smyrna, DE 19977

### Tuesday-Thursday

February 25-27  
Delaware Rural Water Assn.  
Technical Conference & Expo  
Dover Building  
Delaware State Fairgrounds  
Harrington, DE

## Ask Miss Utility

*Why must I hand dig within a tolerance zone of a marked facility?*

Observing the tolerance zone is important because locating is not an exact science. Therefore, the actual location of the facility could vary from the position of the marks. Also, Delaware state law mandates a 24-inch tolerance zone on each side of the extremities of a marked facility. Maryland state law mandates an 18-inch tolerance zone on each side of the extremities of a marked facility. No mechanized equipment can be used within this tolerance zone; hand digging or vacuum excavation is recommended.

**Do you have a question for Miss Utility?**

Send it to Thomas Matich at  
[tmatich@milford-de.gov](mailto:tmatich@milford-de.gov).

## Editorial Staff

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

**Contributing Writers:** Loretta Carlson, Frank Dobson, Bradley Ebaugh, Thomas Matich, and Emily Meier

## 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 Thomas Matich at [tmatich@milford-de.gov](mailto:tmatich@milford-de.gov).



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