

# MISS UTILITY OF DELMARVA



# The Scoop



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2019

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"Spring is Almost Here,  
Contact "811" Before You Dig"

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## President's Message

Hello Team:

Spring is upon us, and with the change of seasons comes an increased amount of excavation. This season is important for our organization to promote our message and educate the excavators, facility owners, locate companies and public on the law. It should be noted that in the State of Delaware, Senate Bill 189 was signed into law in September of 2018. Recently, the Public Service Commission has created an online damage form that is required to be filled out if you have a gas pipeline damage, or if you have any other damage when the total cost of the damage is over \$3,000. The form can be accessed at the following link: <https://dep.sc.delaware.gov>. To all the facility owners, this is required if there is damage to your facility. It must be submitted within 15 days of the incident, or whenever known. The website also provides an option that can be used by anyone who witnesses a violation of 26 Del. Code, Chapter 8, Subchapter I. So, for example, you would want to use this link if you wanted to report an excavator that you witnessed digging but had not called Miss Utility for a ticket and had not damaged your pipeline. Our organization will be partnering with the Public Service Commission to promote and educate all stakeholders on this new requirement.



In December, the Board of Directors re-elected three (3) of our Board Members to two (2) year terms, Eric Cimo, from DelDOT will continue to serve as our Treasurer, Mark Gemmill, from Tidewater Utilities will continue to serve as our Secretary and Ron McIntrye from the City of Wilmington. In addition, Brad Ebaugh, who is a past president, was re-elected to stay on the board for another year, in accordance to our by-laws. Steve Keyser, Chesapeake Utilities, will continue as new Vice President, Paula James, Delmarva Power, Mike Burns, Utiliquist, Tony Gersitz, Retired, Richard Lewis, Century Engineering, Wendy Stack, W Locco, LLC and Leroy Sverduk, Delaware Electric Cooperative complete our talented and dedicated Board. I would like to provide my sincerest gratitude to all our Board Members that will sacrifice their time and energy to promote our message.

April is nationally recognized as Safe Dig Month. As such, our team will be obtaining a proclamation from the Governor. Additionally, we will be conducting our 11th annual Locator Achievement Awards, this is a great event where our organization has the fortune of honoring the locators that work so hard in protecting our underground infrastructure, this event will take place on April 25, at the Harrington Casino. Our organization will also participate in several public outreach events in April to educate the public and promote our message of "Contacting Before You Dig."

Our talented Public Awareness Committee has presented a number of new promotional campaigns this year to keep the message fresh to the public. One campaign that I am particularly excited about is our work with Carvertise. Our

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team will be working with this organization to wrap several vehicles with our graphics to pass the word to hundreds of thousands of motorists throughout our territory. Keep your eyes open for these cars and help us promote our message.

Our team is extremely excited to tackle our goals this year. As always, we encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings. These meetings are held every third Thursday of the month and locations vary, so please visit our website for details: [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com).

Enjoy this version of The Scoop. Our team works very hard on this newsletter. I would like to recognize our Editor, Wendy Stack, on her continued excellence with this task. We are always open for any ideas, topics, projects or articles from our membership. Please reach out to our team if you would like to contribute.

*Jason A. Lyon*



7. Reduce the risk of sunburn and skin cancer by wearing long sleeves, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunshades. Use sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher.
8. Keep an eye on the thermometer and take precautions in the heat.
9. When working in [hot weather](#), remind workers to drink plenty of liquids, but not those that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar, as they can cause you to lose body fluid.
10. Pay attention to signs of heat-related illness, including high body temperature, headache, dizziness, rapid pulse, nausea, confusion, or unconsciousness.

And remember—if you hire a contractor for landscaping or other outdoor maintenance, it's important to inquire about the company's safety record and make sure they train and require employees to follow safe work practices. They may not be on your payroll, but if a contract worker is injured at your facility, OSHA can cite and fine not only the contractor, but the host employer as well.



## Spring Message from OSHA

### *Safety tips for outside hazards— machinery, insects, heat, and more*

1. Wear safety goggles, sturdy shoes, and long pants when using lawn mowers and other machinery.
2. [Protect your hearing](#) when operating machinery. If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is an arm's length away, the noise can be potentially harmful to your hearing.
3. Make sure equipment is working properly.
4. Wear [gloves](#) to protect from skin irritations, cuts, and contaminants.
5. Use insect repellent containing DEET.
6. Follow instructions and warning labels on chemical and lawn and garden equipment. (As a reminder, if workers will be using consumer chemical products in amounts and/or frequencies that exceed typical consumer use, employers must obtain a [safety data sheet \(SDS\)](#) for the product, ensure that it is properly labeled, and train workers in its hazards and safe work practices.)

## GCDPT Golf Outing



*Just playing some golf - Miss Utility of Delmarva having fun at the 2018 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference in Ocean City, Md.*

## Did You Know?

### *New Law—The Underground Utility Damage and Safety Act*

On August 29, 2018, Senate Bill 189, which relates to the Underground Utility Damage and Safety Act was signed into law. A few years ago the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) evaluated Delaware to be inadequate in its compliance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. This finding provided the State with five (5) years to correct any deficiencies in its program, or PHMSA would assume the role of enforcing 49 CFR Part 196—Protection of Underground Pipelines from Excavation Activity. Since the non-compliance finding, staff members of the Delaware Public Service Commission have been working to pass legislation which would bring Delaware into compliance and create a safer environment for utilities, excavators, and citizens of this state.

This legislation was the first step toward compliance and requires the Operators of underground facilities, except Operators of underground gas pipeline facilities, to notify the Public Service Commission of any excavation damage of which they are aware when the damage exceeds \$3000 in value. For Operators of underground gas pipeline facilities, they must notify the Public Service Commission for all excavation damages to their facilities, regardless of the value of the damage. It also provides for the Public Service Commission to review the violation and to assess penalties that are consistent with the circumstances and gravity of the violation.

## Eleventh Annual Awards Banquet

It is essential that anyone planning an excavation call Miss Utility and request a locate ticket. It is also necessary to wait for the positive response that the utility infrastructure has been marked. The locator is where the rubber meets the road. If locates are not accomplished accurately, damages occur, customers are left out of service and people potentially may be hurt or killed. It is for these reasons we wish to acknowledge the exceptional locators of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The Eleventh Annual Locators Award Banquet features locators from many companies that had to meet strict criteria to be selected for this event. Part of that criteria included having no at fault utility damages for one-year,

positive attitude, stepping out of the box to assist contractors and assisting other locators and no vehicle accidents, etc. This achievement might sound easy to some but, believe me, it is definitely a huge accomplishment to be proud of.

This year, the winning locators will be recognized at Harrington Raceway and Casino on Thursday, April 25th, 2019, in the Gold Room at the Harrington Fairgrounds. Keep a look out for our next issue of the 2019 Summer Scoop to find out who the best locators are on Delmarva and winners will be posted on the [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com) website. Don't forget to congratulate them as this achievement is nothing but remarkable.



**2018 Locator Achievement Award Winners**

## "Excavate" or "Excavation"

**Do you know what "Excavate" or "Excavation" means to Miss Utility of Delmarva?**

In our USPCD handbook it reads:

"Excavate" or "Excavation" shall mean any operation in which earth, rock or other material in the ground is moved, removed or otherwise displaced or disturbed by means of any tools, equipment or explosives and includes, without limitation, grading, trenching, digging, dredging, ditching, drilling, augering, tunneling, boring, backfilling, post pounding, driving objects into the ground, installation of form pins, hammering, scraping, cable or pipe plowing or driving, but does not include the surface cultivation of the soil for agricultural purposes, such as tilling, or patch-type paving where the same, including cutback, does not exceed 12 inches in depth measured from the surface of the pavement being patched.

So, if any of the above is something you plan to do, then don't forget it is the Law to contact Miss Utility before you dig. It's simple, dial "811" or visit the Miss Utility website – [www.missutilitydelmarva.net](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.net).



## I Read the Scoop Drawing

Send an email to [w.stack@mchsi.com](mailto:w.stack@mchsi.com) and let us know you read the “Scoop” newsletter. Everyone who sends an email with **“I READ THE SCOOP”** in the subject line, will have his or her name entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card. All emails should be submitted by May 31, 2019 to be entered in the drawing. Winner will be notified by email or phone, so please include a contact number. We will have one lucky winner so, **GOOD LUCK!**

	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Jan 2019
Reported Damages	32	11	15
Tickets	172,076	77,414	90,431
Percentage	0.019%	0.014%	0.017%



### Questions/Comments?

This newsletter belongs to you, so ideas and topics are welcomed. Send your comments, questions and suggestions to Wendy Stack at [w.stack@mchsi.com](mailto:w.stack@mchsi.com).

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

### Editorial Staff

- Jason A. Lyon — President
- Steve Keyser — Vice President
- Mark Gemmill — Secretary
- Eric Cimo — Treasurer
- Wendy Stack — Board Member
- Teresa P. McCann — Editor

Contributing Writers: Jason Lyon, Wendy Stack

## Calendar of Events

### Miss Utility Meetings

#### April 18, 2019

**Delaware Electric Cooperative**  
14198 Sussex Hwy  
Greenwood, De. 19950  
Breakfast will be provided at 8:11 a.m.

#### May 16, 2019

**Tidewater Utilities**  
1101 S. Littlecreek Road  
Dover, De. 19901

#### June 20, 2019

**Delmarva Power Conference Center**  
4100 S. Wakefield Drive  
Newark, De. 19702

#### July 18, 2019

**Sharp Energy**  
22945 E. Piney Grove Road  
Georgetown, De. 19947

### Events

#### April 8th & 9th, 2019

**Delmarva Safety Association**  
Spring Health & Safety Conference  
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel  
10100 Coastal Hwy  
Ocean City, Md. 21842

#### April 17, 2019

**Wilmington Earth Day**  
Rodney Square  
1100 North Market Street  
Wilmington, De. 19801

#### June 8, 2019

**Camden Safe Summer Day**  
Brecknock Park  
80 Old Camden Road  
Camden, De. 19934

#### June 23rd – 26th, 2019

**Maryland Municipal League’s Convention**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center  
Ocean City, Md. 21842



## Ask Miss Utility

**How can I find out why I see paint markings on my property? And what right do these people have to come onto my property without permission?**

Great question—It is required by law to contact “811” or visit [missutilitydelmarva.com](http://missutilitydelmarva.com) to submit a ticket (dig) request prior to doing any excavation. Digging without knowing the location of underground facilities could result in serious injury, and other significant consequences.

Call “811” and reach the call center to determine who is doing the excavation on your property or in your area.

The owner-member utilities need access to your property to complete their locating work based on an excavation notice/ticket. By identifying the underground service lines and following safe digging practices, property, health, life and services remain intact during the excavation taking place.

Please check our website [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com) for updates on events.