



The Scoop



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 5—Fall 2013

Time for GCDPTC

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President's Message

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The worker in this shoring box is aligning the offsets between pipes before they are welded.
Photo by Pablo Rivera

Safety First

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The Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference Returns for Its Fifth Year

Miss Utility of Delmarva, Miss Utility of Maryland, and District One Call will once again host the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC) this fall. The GCDPTC will return for its fifth year, with activities planned from Wednesday, October 23, through Friday, October 25, at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland.

Since its launch in 2009, the GCDPTC has established itself as the premier event on the East Coast for facility operators, locators, excavators, regulators, engineers, and all other professionals who work near underground facilities. With its combination of informative training sessions, relevant exhibitors, and networking opportunities, the conference has attracted more registrants every year; nearly 340 people attended in 2012. The 2013 GCDPTC Committee hopes to build on this success and once again bring together the largest annual gathering of industry stakeholders in the region.

This year, the GCDPTC will offer an exciting lineup of both returning and new sessions, including "Hurricane Sandy: Lessons Learned"; "Mapping: Past, Present, and Future"; and "Damage Prevention Jeopardy." The 811 Bike, designed by Paul Jr. Designs and featured on the Discovery Channel series *American Chopper*, will again be displayed in the exhibit hall.

First Sergeant Matt Eversmann (Ret.) will deliver this year's keynote speech. A testament to the true nature of war and heroism, Eversmann is immortalized in the film *Black Hawk Down* and the 2004 book *The Battle of Mogadishu*, which tell the story of a heroic group of elite U.S. soldiers sent to Somalia in 1993 as part of a United Nations peacekeeping operation.



If you are looking for new opportunities to train and educate your staff in damage prevention, consider attending the 2013 GCDPTC.

To learn more about the conference or to register, please visit www.missutilityconference.com. We hope to see you in Ocean City this October!



President's Message



Dear Friends,

I'd like to touch on a few reasons why we're suffering damages to underground utilities even though we have state laws in place and a "call before you dig" process to mitigate damages to utilities and injuries to people.

Call Before You Dig

We see this message on huge petroleum storage tanks and NASCAR vehicles. We see it on bumper stickers and Miss Utility's educational material and handouts. It seems like it should be a simple process. You call 811 to get your excavation site marked so you do not hit any underground utilities when you dig. The call center lets all the involved utilities know of your intentions. Utility companies dispatch locators to mark their underground infrastructure. The locators mark the utilities or "clear" the ticket. You receive feedback via Ticket Check notifying you that you are cleared to dig as long as you respect the marks.

Simple. What could go wrong? Apparently, a lot. Here are three examples.

Not Calling in a Ticket

Reporting data show that many utilities are damaged because no one called in a ticket. I don't quite understand this, because not only do state laws require the call, but the call also is free. The utility companies pay for the call as a service to you. If your company cuts an underground utility or injures or kills a worker, your costs could be astronomical. Companies have gone bankrupt due to liability for a catastrophic cut.

You must call in your own ticket. The entity doing the digging must "own" the ticket. Yes, this means that a large construction site could have multiple tickets; each contractor may have a different scope of work. If you dig on someone else's ticket, it may not include the area in which you are excavating. If you cut a utility and have no legal ticket, nothing you do or say will hold up during litigation. You lose.

Hitting a Marked Line

Month after month, half of the damaged utility lines are the result of someone hitting a marked line. The red or yellow or orange paint does not mean "dig here." The Delaware law specifies a two-foot tolerance zone (Maryland specifies 18 inches) on either side of the paint or flag where you must hand dig to find the utility. Best practice is to start at the outer edge of the tolerance zone and dig down and over to expose the utility. Worst practice is to use your backhoe on the line to "just take a couple of inches off the top first."

If you see marks but do not have a ticket, do not assume you can dig. First, as noted above, you need to have your own cleared ticket. Second, you do not know what has transpired since the original ticket was located. Other contractors may have placed their facilities underground in the meantime. If you dig on

old marks without a ticket, you risk damaging a utility newly placed in the ground. Also, you put your employees at risk. When employees get hurt, OSHA may get involved, and their fines can put you out of business.

Guessing

Don't do it. If you are sent out to locate a ticket and are confused or have inaccurate or unclear information, ask for guidance. Call the contact on the ticket. Have your questions answered and then locate correctly.

We are all responsible for doing the right thing. Ask a Miss Utility representative for training. We'll be glad to visit your workplace or job site or speak at a safety meeting and explain the facets of digging safely. An educated workforce will cause fewer damages and injuries and reduce their effects on your bottom line.

If you have a problem understanding the 811 process or difficulties working with a utility, locator, or another involved party, contact Miss Utility, and we will do our best to help you resolve the issue. Fill out the complaint form on our Web site. In Maryland, you may contact the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority. They can resolve disputes, provide education and, if necessary, assess punitive monetary damages.

We are all in this together and have similar goals. Safe and prudent excavation can add to the bottom line. Safe and prudent excavation helps keep our workers and the public safe. Please call before you dig.

Sincerely,

Safety First

Lead in Construction

by Frank Dobson

Lead is a common but hazardous natural element found at many construction sites. Lead exposure occurs when workers inhale the fumes and dust or when they ingest the dust because they have not thoroughly cleaned their hands. Lead can be taken home on workers' clothing, skin, hair, and tools and in vehicles.

Avoid Exposure

- Use proper personal protective equipment (for example, gloves, clothing, and approved respirators).
- Wash hands and face after work and before eating.

- Never enter eating areas wearing protective equipment.
- Never wear away from work the clothes and shoes worn during lead exposure.
- Launder clothing daily; use proper cleaning methods.
- Be alert to symptoms of lead exposure (for example, severe abdominal pain, headaches, and loss of motor coordination).

Use Respirators

- Wear appropriate respirators as directed.
- Conduct a user seal check each time a respirator is donned.
- Be aware of your company's respiratory protection program; understand limitations and potential hazards of respirators.

Prevent Further Exposure

- Ensure adequate ventilation.
- When outdoors, stand upwind of any plume.
- Use dust-collecting equipment, when possible.
- Use lead-free materials and chemicals.
- Use local exhaust ventilation for enclosed work 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.

Massive Pipeline Project Opens Way for Electric Power Generator

The project is known as the Greenspring Expansion. It consists of approximately 11 miles of 16-inch O.D. steel pipeline and associated regulating facilities. The project start point is on Blackbird-Greenspring Road north of Clayton in New Castle County. It proceeds parallel to the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and terminates at the Eastern Shore Natural Gas facility on Fork Branch Road south of Cheswold. When completed, the pipeline will increase capacity on Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company's system for the NRG plant on North Street in Dover between Kraft Foods and Proctor & Gamble.

Primary contractor Voshell Brothers Welding, DelDOT, as well as Eastern Shore Natural Gas have been working closely with Miss Utility to ensure that the work proceeds safely and efficiently.

Voshell Brothers Welding is using both horizontal directional drilling and open trenching methods. The pipeline wall is more than 1/4-inch (.312-inch) thick, and all welds are gamma ray examined to ensure quality control. The length of the pipe joints varies, up to 62 feet, and the pipe weighs between 52 and 55 pounds per foot, depending on the protective coating applied. When completed, this pipeline will be hydrostatically tested to over 2,000 PSIG and then tied into the existing system. Once operational, it will be capable of operating at a pressure up to 800 PSIG.

One of the more interesting portions of this project involves the horizontal directional drill being used on the west side of the railroad tracks under the stream and marshland that feed Garrison's Lake. The drill is more than 1,650 feet long and descends to a depth of 25 feet under the water.



Voshell Brothers foreman directs placement of the pipe in the open trench excavated along Moorton Road just outside the town of Cheswold.

Photo by Pablo Rivera

Miss Utility has played a big part in this project, because finding what is already in the ground before we do our work is critical. Even then, our contractor must do his due diligence to verify the marks and determine the depths of the various utilities so we can plan our installations. That can be very tricky at times. In one case, the utility in question did not mark out its line, and we found it during our installation. Fortunately we did not damage the utility, but we then had to do a quick field rework so that we could get past the other facility. In most cases, Miss Utility and the One Call system save our contractor an invaluable amount of time and allow him to focus his verification excavation where the locate marks are. This means less damaged utilities and less down time.

*Article submitted by Marvin Johnson
Transmission Projects Coordinator,
Eastern Shore Natural Gas*



Two workers in portable shoring box oversee placement and alignment of pipes in preparation for welding. The green pipe is for direct burial; the beige pipe is for horizontal directional drilling.

Photo by Pablo Rivera

Where Are the Minutes?

With all the important information we wanted to share about the 2013 GCDPTC and Greenspring Expansion Project, 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/

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.

Congratulations and Thanks

We love to share good news about our members.

Congratulations are due to Frank Dobson, president of Dobson Associates Human Performance/Safety Consultants and the new president of the Delmarva Safety Association (DSA). Founded in 1977, DSA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing injuries, occupational illnesses, and economic losses in workplaces and communities on the Delmarva Peninsula.

An active member for the past 15 years, Frank has been a presenter at DSA's semiannual safety conferences and served in numerous leadership positions over the years. As president, Frank will be the chair of the DSA executive committee and lead efforts to provide educational opportunities promoting safety for all people living and working in the Delmarva community.

For more information on the DSA or safety program development, go to www.delmarvasafety.org.

Many thanks to Tony Gersitz, longtime member of the Miss Utility board of directors, who donated the trailer pictured on the right. We also extend our thanks to the people of Easton Utilities who refurbished the trailer and added the 811 and Miss Utility logos. The trailer will enable us to more easily transport tools and materials to community events and educational presentations and get the word out about safe digging and utility damage prevention.



Photo by Jim Crowley

Calendar of Events

If you know of an event that would benefit Miss Utility members, please contact **Thomas Matich** at 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, September 19

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

Thursday, October 17

Easton Utilities
201 North Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601

Thursday, November 19

Chesapeake Utilities
32145 Beaver Run Drive
Salisbury, MD

Thursday, December 19

Artesian Water
644 Churchmans Road
Newark, DE 19702

Other Events

Sunday, September 15 (rain date: September 22)

Newark Community Day
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
University of Delaware Green

Friday, September 27

Delaware Rural Water's Water & Wastewater Operator Expo
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Milford Elks Lodge
18951 Elks Lodge Road
Milford, DE 19963

	May	June	July
Reported Damages	48	36	47
Tickets	99,196	86,051	95,501
Percentage (damages / tickets)	0.048%	0.042%	0.049%

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, continued

Tuesday-Wednesday

October 15-16

Delaware On-Site Wastewater Recycling Annual Conference
Harrington Raceway & Casino
Harrington, Delaware 19952

Wednesday-Friday

October 23-25

Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau
10100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, Maryland 21842

Send Comments about The Scoop.

Win a \$100 Gift Card!

Do you read *The Scoop*? Tell us. Do you have ideas for improvement? Send them to Thomas Matich at tmatich@milford-de.gov. Everyone who sends an e-mail will have his or her name entered in the drawing for a \$100 gift card.

Ask Miss Utility

I am a contractor that is going to be calling in locate requests for a large state project. I would like to know the best way to communicate with all the different locators that are going to be on my site.

For excavation projects that are large, complicated, and will extend more than 20 days, a caller can request a "meeting ticket" so that all parties can come together to plan and agree upon construction and locate schedules. Such pre-job meetings are important for major or unusual excavations. The meeting will facilitate communications, coordinate the marking with actual excavation, and ensure identification of high-priority facilities.

Ask Miss Utility continued

The meeting ticket in Delaware is not an excavation ticket and will not go to Ticket Check. When a contractor is ready to start the excavation, he or she should process a routine excavation ticket so that the request can be given the proper status. Although Maryland does not process a meeting header ticket, you can still request a meeting on a routine excavation, and it will go to Ticket Check.

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