

MISS UTILITY OF DELMARVA



The Scoop



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Spring is Here—Know What's Below



President's Message

Dear Friends,

April is Safe Dig Month. Why? Because the weather is improving and it is getting warmer. Homeowners and professional excavators alike will intensify their outdoor activities. It is our chance to remind everyone to exercise safe digging practices; to "Call Before You Dig, Wait for Responses, Respect the Markings and Dig Safely".

Governor Jack A. Markell issued a Statement in Observance of Safe Digging Month in Delaware. Not only is it state law to contact Miss Utility prior to any excavation, it is a free, common sense act to keep you safe and prevent damage to public utilities.

I have spoken with several contractors this past year that have been in the excavation business many years and did not obtain a ticket for every digging job! We clearly need to increase our efforts to educate EVERYONE to contact Miss Utility before digging.

Common Ground Alliance (a nationwide organization of stakeholders) defines excavation as: "Any operation using non-mechanized or mechanized equipment, demolition, or explosives in the movement of earth, rock, or other material below existing grade." Pretty clear.

Delaware law defines excavation as: "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, tunnelling, 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.

After a careful examination of these definitions, it should be clear that just about any time you are going to put a shovel in the ground, you have to obtain a Miss Utility ticket and have the utilities in the area located. This is not a suggestion, it is the law.

I stress this because about half of the damages we incur are due to an excavator digging without calling in a ticket! So many damages could have been eliminated. Think of how many times you may have put your employee in a situation where they may have been injured or killed. Is the price of a free locate ticket worth the life of an employee? We can do better!

In closing, I would like to acknowledge election of our new officers, Jason Lyon (City of Dover), Vice President, Eric Cimo (DeIDOT), Treasurer and Dwayne Olivieri (Delmarva Power), Secretary. I thank you for your service to our members.

Brad Ebaugh

Meet our Newest Board Member



Mike Burns recently accepted a position with the Miss Utility board of directors, and we are so excited for the new ideas he will bring to the table. Mike started as a locator with UtiliQuest and worked hard to become a Quality Auditor, a Supervisor, and now a Manager. Mike now has been in the Utility Locating industry for over 10 years. Prior to UtiliQuest, he worked in grocery and restaurant management, which allowed him to learn about customer service, which is a day to day activity in the Utility Industry.

As he starts his membership with the board, he said, "My goal with being on the Board is to continue to educate the excavating and homeowner community as a representative of Miss Utility and to have an impact on the laws and guidelines everyone needs to follow to practice safe excavation, which should ultimately have a positive effect on system-wide damages."

Please join us in welcoming our newest member.

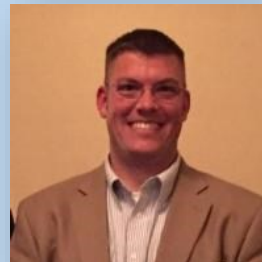
Meet Our New Officers



Jason Lyon
Vice President
Chair, Public Awareness Committee



Dwayne Olivieri
Secretary



Eric Cimo
Treasurer

Mission First.....Safety Always

Permit-Required Confined Spaces: Protect Yourself

By Frank Dobson

Many workplaces have spaces that are considered to be confined spaces because their configuration would hinder the activities of the employees who must work in, or exit from these spaces. Some excavations can be considered to be confined spaces.

Excavations are considered to be one of the most hazardous construction operations. The fatality rate in the continental United States for people who work in excavations is twice that of construction as a whole. Cave-ins are the number one hazard and are more likely to result in worker fatalities than any other excavation-related accident.

The following OSHA guidelines give you basic definitions and instructions for working in confined

spaces. But that is only a starting point. OSHA also requires "competent person" training for everyone who works in excavation operations. **Are you competent?**

OSHA QUICK CARD GUIDELINES

A confined space has limited openings for entry or exit, is large enough for entering and working, and is not designed for continuous employee occupancy. Confined spaces include underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, manholes, pits, silos, underground utility vaults, and pipelines.

Permit-required confined spaces are confined spaces that:

- May contain a hazardous or potentially hazardous atmosphere

Confined Spaces (cont.)

- May contain a material that can engulf an entrant
- May contain walls that converge inward or floors that slope downward and taper into a smaller area that could trap or asphyxiate an entrant
- May contain other serious physical hazards such as unguarded machines or exposed live electrical wires
- Must be identified by the employer who must inform exposed employees of the existence and location of such spaces and their hazards

What To Do

- Do not enter permit-required confined spaces without being trained and without having a permit to enter
- Review, understand, and follow employer’s procedures before entering permit-required confined spaces, and know how and when to exit

- Before entry, identify any and all physical hazards
- Before and continuously during entry, test and monitor for oxygen content, flammability, toxicity, or explosive hazards as necessary
- Use employer’s fall protection, rescue, air monitoring, ventilation, lighting, and communications procedures
- Maintain contact at all times with a trained attendant either visually, or by two-way radio. This monitoring system enables the attendant and the entry supervisor to order you to evacuate and to alert appropriately trained rescue personnel to rescue entrants when needed.
- Consult OSHA’s latest Construction Regulation 29 CFR 1926.1200 Subpart AA for up-to-date guidelines on Confined Spaces.



Safety First

Protect Yourself with Respirators

By Frank Dobson



Respiratory protection must be worn whenever you are working in a hazardous atmosphere. The appropriate respirator will depend on the

contaminant(s) to which you are exposed and the protection factor (PF) required. Required respirators must be NIOSH approved and medical evaluation and training must be provided before use.

Single-Strap Dust Masks are usually not NIOSH approved. They must not be used to protect from hazardous atmospheres. However, they may be useful in providing comfort from pollen or other allergens.

Approved Filtering Facepieces (dust masks) can be used for dusts, mists, welding fumes, etc. They do not provide protection from gases or vapors. **DO NOT USE FOR ASBESTOS OR LEAD;** instead, select from the respirators listed below.

Half-Face Respirators can be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. Cartridges/filters must match the contaminant(s) and can be changed periodically.

Full-Face Respirators are more protective than half-face respirators. They can also be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. The face shield protects face and eyes from irritants and contaminants. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant (s) and can be changed periodically.

Loose-Fitting Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) offer breathing comfort from a battery-powered fan which pulls air through filters and circulates air throughout helmet/hood. They can be worn by most workers who have beards. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and can be changed periodically.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is used for entry and escape from atmospheres that are considered immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) or oxygen deficient. They use their own air tank.

Safety Pays In Many Ways!!

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

Email Us!

Congratulations to our Winter 2015 Scoop Winners!

- Chuck Ferguson – DelDOT Utilities*
- Penny Stubbs – Richard E Pierson Construction Co Inc.*
- Charles Russell – Chesapeake Utilities*
- Pat Button – Environmental Quality Resources, LLC – “Two-time Winner!”*

There won't be a gift card this issue, but watch out for more contests in future issues.

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.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Calendar of Events

Miss Utility Meetings

April 21, 2016
Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 14198 Sussex Highway
 Greenwood, DE 19950

May 19, 2016
Tidewater Utilities
 1100 South Little Creek Road
 Dover, DE 19901

June 16, 2016
Delmarva Power
 The Delmarva Power Conference Center
 4100 South Wakefield Drive
 Newark, DE 19702

July 21, 2016
Chesapeake Utilities
 32145 Beaver Run Drive
 Salisbury, MD 21804



Other Events

April 4th & 5th 2016
Delaware Safety Association Conference
 Clarion Hotel
 10100 Coastal Highway
 Ocean City, MD 21842

April 22, 2016
Wilmington Earth Day
 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Rodney Square
 1100 North Market Street
 Wilmington, DE 19801

April 26, 2016
Choptank Electric 78th Annual Meeting
 The Milestone
 9630 Technology Drive
 Easton, MD 21601

June 11, 2016
Camden Safe Summer Day
 80 Old Camden Road
 Camden, DE 19934

June 26 – June 29, 2016
Maryland Municipal League's Annual Convention
 Ocean City, MD 21842

	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016
Reported Damages	19	32	26
Tickets	88,180	84,173	78,849
Percentage	0.022	0.038	0.033

Editorial Staff

- Bradley C. Ebaugh**—President
- Jason A. Lyon**—Vice President
 Chair, Public Awareness Committee
- Dwayne Olivieri**—Secretary
- Eric Cimo**—Treasurer
- Wendy Stack**—Board Member
- Teresa P. McCann**—Editor

Contributing Writers: Bradley Ebaugh, Frank Dobson, & Wendy Stack

Ask Miss Utility

When I needed to place a new water service for one of my clients I called in an emergency locate ticket and was advised that new installation is not considered an Emergency. Why?

When calling in emergency locate request, consider “Is this a life threatening situation?”. If your answer is “NO” then it is not a valid emergency. Also, Emergency request tickets are responded to within a few hours and if not valid this places the companies and locators in a situation of traveling to a job site for a contractor’s lack of planning.

Miss Utility Delmarva describes Emergency Tickets as:

“Emergency” shall mean any condition constituting a clear and present danger to life, health or property by reason of escaping gas or petroleum products, exposed or broken wires, other breaks or defects in an operator’s utility line or by reason of any disaster of artificial or natural causes.

"MARK YOUR CALENDER"

The 2016 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference will be held October 18 - 21 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

Check out the web page www.missutilitydelmarva.com for upcoming meetings & events.