

# MISS UTILITY OF DELMARVA



# The Scoop



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2015

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Miss Delaware, Brooke Mitchell with  
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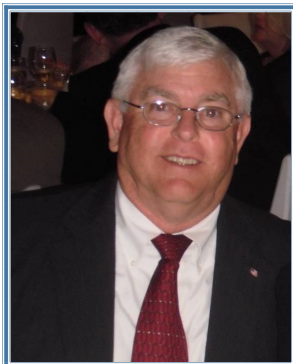
*Missing the Mark*

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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

I was encouraged as I attended trade shows and community festivals this summer in our Miss Utility of Delmarva booth. Many people I met knew that 811 is a contact number for Miss Utility of Delmarva. They were aware that

the utility companies or their contractor would be dispatched to mark their underground facilities so safe excavation could begin. Many had called Miss Utility of Delmarva at some time in the past.

Most did not know that an even easier way to contact Miss Utility of Delmarva is by submitting a locate request by using our website ([www://missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www://missutilitydelmarva.com)). You do not have to talk with anyone and it is available 24 hours every day. All you do is fill out the form at your leisure and submit the request.

What bothers me is that, month after month, half of the cuts on Delmarva are due to cutting a correctly marked underground facility! Some excavators did the right thing by contacting Miss Utility of Delmarva and submitting a locate request. Utility companies, at their cost, dispatched locators to correctly mark the underground facilities in the excavation area. Then, an excavator elected to disregard

the law and dig within the tolerance zone with mechanical equipment and cut a facility.

In Delaware, you cannot use mechanical equipment in the tolerance zone until you have safely located (hand dig or soft dig technology) all the utilities. The tolerance zone in Delaware is 24" on either side of the outmost mark. In Maryland, you may not use mechanical equipment within the tolerance zone (18" on either side of the marked utility) at all.

We can only turn this trend around if you discuss this with your employees and highlight the safety and financial implications of cutting a line. I'll bet that not many of our excavation companies can withstand a wrongful death lawsuit and the OSHA investigation that would follow.

Please contact us to help you educate your employees about safe digging and damage protection practices. We are available to help you with a safety meeting or other venue to get the word out.

Remember, "It's the Law...Contact Miss Utility of Delmarva, Wait for Responses, Respect the Markings & Dig Safely."

Brad Ebaugh

**Mark Your Calendar!** The 2015 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference will be held October 27-30 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, MD 21842

## Having a Written Safety Plan Helps Prevent Accidents

**OSHA**<sup>®</sup> Meeting the minimum OSHA requirements is not enough to prevent on-site construction accidents. Even the most alert site foreman or manager cannot be expected to monitor every action of his or her workers. Put your plan in writing and make it a routine for every project, because not doing so can result in serious legal ramifications down the line.

Advanced planning and proper documentation provides legal protection and also prevents the accidents from happening in the first place.

Safety plans are often made as templates that can be modified or filled out by workers on a site prior to start of your project. The following areas should be included in the safety plan you have for each project.

### New hire orientations and worker training

Make sure every contractor and worker who enters your jobsite receives a physical copy of your written safety plan. If you anticipate there will be workers whose first language is not English, have someone draft a copy of the plan in another language as well. Having your workers fully comprehend your written plan doesn't just save you from legal issues, but protects your workers lives as well.

Have your workers sign a document that says they won't be under the influence while on the job. You can also hire a safety consultant to provide training which will further educate the do's and don'ts at the work site. Quiz workers on proper procedures and require them to sign off and confirm they have received safety training.



### Site inspection and routine audits

Construction safety begins with recognizing and taking steps to properly deal with safety hazards unique to each job site. Writing these hazards down is extremely important, but covering with your employee through a tool box talk at the job site prior to starting any project helps identify any issues that may occur. If an accident occurs and there is no written record of an initial site inspection, there can be serious legal problems for your company. Consider all equipment that will be entering the jobsite. Identify all escape/evacuation routes prior to entering jobsite so workers can determine the safest route to evacuate if needed. If the project will be ongoing, establish days that you will perform safety audits of the site as the project progresses.



### Fire, fall and electrical hazards

A written plan should include inspections of all electrical equipment. Specify the training needed for all workers in the general area of high-tension wires, underground cables and electric boxes. Additionally your plan should include a statement regarding PPE, or personal protection equipment. Write down where the equipment can be found and who is in charge of distributing the equipment. All workers on the jobsite need to be mindful of safety when anyone is working at an elevated position. Falling tools are lethal at a short distance.

So, stressing the importance of proper PPE and documentation of work sites with proper record keeping keeps the inspection process as a regular routine and employees educated on safety.

#### Sample Pre-Task Planning Form

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Task/ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential Hazards Present		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flying Particles / Debris	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality / Vapors	<input type="checkbox"/> Confined Space
<input type="checkbox"/> Elevated Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (Burns, Inhalation, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire / Heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	
Hazard Elimination		
<input type="checkbox"/> Protective Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Head Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Lanyard / Harness
<input type="checkbox"/> Ear Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Respirator	<input type="checkbox"/> Restrict Area: Barricades / Rails
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye / Face Protection		
Items To Be Verified		
<input type="checkbox"/> PPE Present	<input type="checkbox"/> MSDS	<input type="checkbox"/> Others Informed
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Plan Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Supervision Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Equipment Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Permitting Obtained	<input type="checkbox"/> Lockout / Tagout	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Guards		

## Out & About



**" Miss Utility Damage Prevention Booth at the Delaware Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting August 25, 2015"**

Photo provided by Wendy Stack

*Safety First**Protect Yourself with Respirators**By Frank Dobson***Source of information: OSHA Quick Card**

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 following respirators.

**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 the 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](http://www.dobsonassociates.com).*

## *7th Annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference*

Miss Utility of Maryland/D.C. and Miss Utility of Delmarva will once again host the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC) in Ocean City, Md., this fall. The seventh annual GCDPTC, which will take place Oct. 27-30, 2015 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, provides damage prevention stakeholders from around the region with four days of networking opportunities and education.

Shane Bush, the co-founder of BushCo, Inc., whose primary mission is to "assist companies in eliminating unwanted outcomes related to human error," will

serve as keynote speaker at the 2015 GCDPTC and will kick off a full day of informative conference sessions on Thursday, Oct. 29, delivering his motivational speech about reducing human error in a humorous way that is sure to resonate with all attendees. Highlights from the GCDPTC's comprehensive schedule of breakout sessions include "ITIC Next Generation," "Case Study: FBI Investigation into Locate Request Fraud," and "Common Ground Alliance Update."

The 2015 GCDPTC offers a variety of registration package options. To register or learn more, please visit [www.missutilityconference.com](http://www.missutilityconference.com).

**Every 6 minutes—**

**An underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.**



## Ask Miss Utility

*I am a contractor that digs in Delaware and Maryland and have had some issues with companies saying they marked the ticket, but when on the job site there is no paint or the markings are incorrect. What do I do and why did this happen?*

Missing or Incorrect marks should first start with a call to Miss Utility. If the work to begin date and time issued by Miss Utility of Delmarva has arrived and a facility member has failed to respond and mark the facilities or has marked the facilities incorrectly, it is best to contact that facility owner directly. The Miss Utility of Delmarva Customer Service Center can provide the appropriate phone numbers if needed. Also, you can access [missutilitydelmarva.com](http://missutilitydelmarva.com) web site and do a "Ticket Search by Number", select state and "Go". When on second page select "View" and at the bottom of the ticket you will see "Facility Owner Member/Locate Contact Information" and then you will find a list of Utility Owners notified and or Locate Company contact.

	May 2015	Jun 2015	Jul 2015
Reported Damages	71	63	95
Tickets	105,388	108,361	117,210
Percentage	0.067	0.058	0.081

## Email Us!

### Win a \$25.00 Gift Card

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 e-mail will have his or her name in a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card. All emails should be submitted with "I READ THE SCOOP" in the subject and submitted by October 15th, 2015 by midnight to be in the drawing. Winners will be notified by email or phone, so please include a number to be contacted. **GOOD LUCK!**

## The People Behind the Scenes

### Meet the Board

Do you know the officers that are behind the scenes? Maybe you know a few names, but would you know them on a job site or event? Visit our website at [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com) and meet your board of directors and membership. Better yet, attend our monthly membership meetings every third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for continental breakfast with a 9:00 a.m. meeting start. Check out the website for dates and locations.

Hope to see you soon!

### Editorial Staff

- Paul Elwood**—Vice President & Chair, Public Awareness Committee
- Teresa P. McCann**—Editor
- Bradley C. Ebaugh**—President
- Jason A. Lyon**—Secretary
- Solomon McCloskey**—Treasurer
- Wendy Stack**—Board Member
- Frank Dobson**—Safety Consultant

**Contributing Writers:** Solomon McCloskey, Frank Dobson, Bradley Ebaugh, Paul Elwood, Emily Meier, Wendy Stack.

## Calendar of Events

### Miss Utility Meetings

Thursday, October 15, 2015  
Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
14198 Sussex Hwy  
Greenwood, DE. 19950

Thursday, November 19, 2015  
Easton Utilities  
201 N. Washington Street  
Easton, MD. 21601

Thursday, December 17, 2015  
Artesian Water  
644 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE. 19702



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

### Other Events

Tuesday-Friday  
October 27-30  
Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference  
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel  
10100 Coastal Hwy  
Ocean City, MD. 21842

Check out the web page [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com) for additional upcoming events.