



The Scoop



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A Quarterly Newsletter

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"Beware—Summer Construction Has Started"



President's Message

Dear Friends,

The Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of summer, has come and gone. We are now enjoying the warm and sunny weather on beautiful Delmarva! The excavation pace has picked up as everyone is outside working on their projects. Whether it's a do-it-yourself job or you've hired a contractor, the common goal should be to complete the task safely. Contacting Miss Utility is one of the first steps the **person digging** should take on any excavation project. All parties should have the same common goals; complete the task efficiently, on-time, and without damaging a utility or hurting anyone.

The free contact to Miss Utility prior to any digging project is mandated by Maryland and Delaware law. A simple website click or phone call can keep you safe and out of expensive litigation. Hitting electric or gas lines can maim or kill someone, and cutting fiber can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Even cutting a cable line can make you very unpopular when all your neighbor's internet and TVs go offline.

On April 23rd, we honored 36 of your neighbors at our 7th annual Locator Awards Banquet. We recognized the superb efforts of 36 locators on Delmarva that kept excavators safe

by accurately locating the underground utilities. We took comments from each locator as to what made them stand out amongst their peers. The common thread was communication. They ask questions. They track down the homeowner or contractor if they have questions about a locate. They make themselves available should the excavator have questions about the marks. They don't leave until they are confident the locate is correct. They care.

I ask you to take the same level of care as you go through the summer and engage in excavation projects. Have the same level of concern and make that call. Have your underground facilities marked so you can dig safely and prevent damaging the underground facilities.

It is EASY to contact Miss Utility. Homeowners and professional excavators may reach Miss Utility 24/7 via the internet. There are convenient buttons on our website that take you directly to the internet ticket request pages. During normal work hours, you can always reach the call center by simply dialing 811. Remember, the person digging must request the ticket. If you hire a contractor, they must contact Miss Utility. Make the free connection to Miss Utility and you will "Miss the Utility!" Have a safe summer.

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

The 2014 Locator Achievement Awards

On Thursday, April 23, 2015, it was our pleasure and honor to recognize thirty-six locators from many different companies on Delmarva for their excellent performance. Each Locator performed facility/utility locating as their primary job function during the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

These Locating Technicians had zero at-fault damages, had a positive attitude toward damage prevention, demonstrated excellent communication skills and showed willingness to mentor and help train new employees. Their efforts were recognized at the seventh annual Locator Achievement Awards ceremony held at the Harrington Raceway & Casino in Harrington, Delaware.

This year's guest speaker, Jim Smith of Delmarva Power, praised and congratulated all locators in respect to their part in protecting underground utilities and general everyday safety.

The evening began with registration & refreshments, a Welcome and Opening Remarks followed by a buffet dinner. During the awards presentation, each damage free locator received a cash prize and specialized jacket or sweat shirt. The ceremony ended with the drawing of door prizes and closing remarks.



List of Winners:

- Mark Akers—Danella Construction Corp.
- Shane Anderson—Delmarva Power
- Scott Ballard—Danella Construction Corp.
- Bill Bather—Chesapeake Utilities
- Josh Blottenberger—Danella Construction Corp.
- Bobby Brown—Danella Construction Corp.
- Justin Chambers—Eastern Shore Natural Gas
- Cliff Currinder—Artesian Water
- Barry Daniels—Town of Berlin
- Robert Wayne Diamond—W Locco
- Staci Dickerson, Premier Utility Services, LLC
- Marvin Dorsey—Danella Construction Corp.
- Clinton Durham—Premier Utility Services, LLC
- Aaron Elrod—Danella Construction Corp.
- James Fromal—Artesian Water
- Mark Gemmill—Tidewater Utilities
- Doug Gould—Tidewater Utilities
- Dan Highberger—Artesian Water
- Scott Hoffman—Premier Utility Services, LLC
- John Homens—Premier Utility Services, LLC
- Larry Howton—Eastern Shore Natural Gas
- Jason Ketner—Chesapeake Utilities
- Rick Majors—Town of Smyrna
- Richard Maloof—Premier Utility Services, LLC
- Al Mosley—Danella Construction Corp.
- Hector Osorio—STS
- Matthew Parrish—Camden Wyoming Sewer & Water
- Mike Petro—Artesian Water
- Rob Riley—Chesapeake Utilities
- Bonnie Shockley—Danella Construction Corp.
- Kip Sterling—Danella Construction Corp.
- Craig Straub—Premier Utility Services, LLC
- Randy Testerman—Delmarva Power
- Megan Warnick—Delaware Electric Co-op., Inc.
- Polly Weber—Elkton Gas
- Wayne Williams—Chesapeake Utilities

Special Thanks to the Banquet Committee:

- Bradley Ebaugh, Chairman—President, Miss Utility of Delmarva—Delaware Electric Co-op, Inc.
- Tony Gersitz, Committee Member—AAGG
- Jason Lyon, Committee Member—Secretary Miss Utility of Delmarva - City of Dover
- Dave Ostroski, Committee Member—Verizon
- Dora Parks, Committee Member—One Call Concepts, Inc.



***Every 6 minutes—
An underground utility line is damaged because
someone decided to dig without first calling 811.***

Digging Safe Starts with a Call

Whether you are a professional excavator, contractor, engineer or utility owner, you play an important role keeping everyone safe with every dig. Laws governing excavation vary by state, and they can be confusing. Answering the question, "Do I have to call 811?" can be difficult if you don't understand your local laws and your One Call Center.

One Call Centers are intended to be the communication link between the excavator or planner and the underground facility operators. It is the responsibility of the utility owners to locate and mark underground facilities. Operators may use their own employees to perform locates, or they may hire a private company to perform the locate marks.

Call 811 or use the state-specific information provided here prior to digging and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Provide as much accurate detail as possible, and white line the area where you will be working. In a few days, the utility will send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground lines,

pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below – and be able to dig safely. This is a free service provided by your utilities.

One Call Center information and laws are subject to change. Consult your state's website for additional information regarding online locate requests. Note that notification times typically exclude weekends and holidays.

Delaware

Miss Utility of Delmarva
www.missutilitydelmarva.com
 800-282-8555 or 811
 Notice: 2 business days
 Marks Valid: 10 business days



Maryland (West of Chesapeake Bay)

Miss Utility
www.missutility.net
 800-257-7777 or 811
 Notice: 2 business days
 Marks Valid: 12 business days

Safety First

OSHA issues final rule to protect construction workers in confined spaces

By Frank Dobson



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a final rule to increase protections for construction workers in confined spaces. People working in confined spaces (such as

manholes, crawl spaces, and tanks) face life-threatening hazards including toxic substances, electrocutions, explosions and asphyxiation.

Last year, a worker suffocated while repairing leaks in a manhole. A second worker also died when he went down to save the first – which is not uncommon in cases of asphyxiation in confined spaces.

"In the construction industry, entering confined spaces is often necessary, but fatalities like these don't have to happen," said Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "This new rule will significantly improve the safety of construction workers who enter confined spaces. In fact, we estimate that it will prevent about 780 serious injuries every year."

The rule will provide construction workers with protections similar to those manufacturing and general industry workers have had for more than two decades, with some differences tailored to the construction industry. These include requirements to ensure that multiple employers share vital safety information and to continuously monitor hazards – a safety option made possible by technological advances after the manufacturing and general industry standards were created.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov to see the news release and visit OSHA's webpage on Confined Spaces in Construction.



“It Belongs to You”



Most mobile homes have meters placed between properties on meter boards. The electric service lines from the meter to the home do not belong to the utility. They are “owner’s wire” and will not be located by the utilities. Private locator contractor members of Miss Utility are listed on our website (www.missutilitydelmarva.com) under ABOUT US/MEMBER LIST/PRIVATE LOCATOR CONTRACTOR MEMBERS.

	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015
Reported Damages	34	46	41
Tickets	68,378	102,042	110,832
Percentage	0.050	0.045	0.037

Ask Miss Utility

I hear contractors talking about Vacuum Excavation. So I understand the method, could someone explain how it works?



Vacuum excavators are self-contained units that use pressurized air or water to displace soil and create a dry or wet spoil. The displaced dry or wet spoil is removed from the area through a hose using high-velocity suction and stored in a holding tank on the vacuum. Vacuum excavators can be mounted to a trailer or the back of a truck and range in size from 100 to 1,200 gallons of capacity.

Since vacuum excavators use low-pressure air or water to remove spoil, they are perfect for potholing and identifying existing utilities during underground construction projects.

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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.



Calendar of Events

Miss Utility Meetings

Thursday, July 16, 2015
Chesapeake Utilities
32145 Beaver Run Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804

Thursday, August 20, 2015
Town of Smyrna
220 Artisan Dr.
Smyrna, DE 19977

Thursday, September 17, 2015
One Call Concepts
Maple Dale Country Club
180 Maple Dale Circle
Dover, DE 19904

Other Events

Saturday, June 13, 2015—10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Camden Safe Summer Day
Brecknock Park
80 Old Camden Road
Camden, DE 19934

Sunday – Wednesday, June 28-July 1
Maryland Municipal League
Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

Saturday, August 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wyoming Peach Festival
Railroad Avenue
Wyoming, DE 19934

Wednesday – Saturday, August 12 – 15
Maryland Association of Counties
Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Middletown Peach Festival
Main Street
Middletown, DE 19709

Tuesday, August 25, 3 p.m.
Delaware Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting
Delaware State Fairgrounds
Harrington, DE 19952

Friday, September 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Water & Wastewater Expo.
Delaware Rural Water Association
Milford Elks Lodge
18951 Elks Lodge Road
Milford, DE 19963

Sunday, September 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Rain date: September 27)
Newark Community Day
University of Delaware Green
Newark, DE 19711



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