

MISS UTILITY OF DELMARVA



The Scoop



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A Quarterly Newsletter

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we wind down 2015 and focus on a new year, I'd like to review our two main responsibilities. Your Miss Utility board members have two main tasks;

to operate a call center and to educate the public about underground excavation damage prevention.

To enhance task one, we will roll out an upgraded internet ticket submission system called ITIC NextGen. It will be a major improvement and will ease the process to enter an excavation ticket or multiple tickets. Mapping has taken a giant leap forward making it easy to enter tickets and define the proposed excavation area. This time the computer works for us!

Prior to the rollout in late 2016, we will schedule training sessions throughout our service territory so everyone involved with ticket processing has the latest information. We will send out email notices and have information on our website (www.missutilitydelmarva.com) with dates and locations. Stay tuned!

Our second task is to educate the public about damage prevention. We are funded by the utilities through a ticket surcharge so the cost to the excavator to obtain a ticket and

have the excavation area marked is zero! This is a free service to those digging. We have to constantly educate people to contact Miss Utility before you dig. We still have a third of our cuts caused by contractors or homeowners who do not obtain an excavation ticket to have their excavation area marked. We must also educate everyone about the tolerance zone. It is an area 24" on either side of the marks (18" in Maryland) that you must hand dig and expose the utility before continuing. It is difficult to believe that month after month our damage data tells us that half of all cuts are hitting a marked line! This is not only costly, but puts people at risk of electrocution or caught up in an explosion.

In addition to the tremendously successful Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference held in October, our outreach extends to trade shows and community events to get the damage prevention message out. In 2016, we invite you to invite us to present information on safe digging and the law requirements in Delaware and Maryland at one of your company safety meetings.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Safe New Year!

Brad Ebaugh

Preparing for Winter

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous, but if you plan ahead, you can stay safe and healthy. Prepare your home and cars. Prepare for power outages and outdoor activity. Check on older adults.



Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when

temperatures start to fall.

Take these steps for your home

Many people prefer to remain indoors in the winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

Winterize your home.

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.
- Check your heating systems.
- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies.
 - ⇒ Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries regularly.
 - ⇒ Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea, and disorientation.

Don't forget to prepare your car

Get your car ready for cold weather use before winter arrives.

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. Include:

- ⇒ blankets;
- ⇒ food and water;
- ⇒ booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction);
- ⇒ compass and maps;
- ⇒ flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries;
- ⇒ first-aid kit; and
- ⇒ plastic bags (for sanitation).

Equip in advance for emergencies

Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages.

- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.
- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit, including:
 - ⇒ Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and lamps;
 - ⇒ extra batteries;
 - ⇒ first-aid kit and extra medicine;
 - ⇒ baby items; and
 - ⇒ cat litter or sand for icy walkways.
- Protect your family from carbon monoxide.
 - ⇒ Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
 - ⇒ Locate generators at least 20 feet from the house.
 - ⇒ Leave your home immediately if the CO detector sounds, and call 911.

Take these precautions outdoors

Many people spend time outdoors in the winter working, traveling, or enjoying winter sports. Outdoor activities can expose you to several safety hazards, but you can take these steps to prepare for them:

- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
- Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches.
- Learn safety precautions to follow when outdoors.
 - ⇒ Be aware of the wind chill factor.
 - ⇒ Work slowly when doing outside chores.
 - ⇒ Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation.
 - ⇒ Carry a cell phone.



Work slowly when doing outside chores.

No one can stop the onset of winter. However, if you follow these suggestions, you will be ready for it when it comes.

Seventh Annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference Draws 375 Industry Professionals from Across the Region

The seventh annual Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference (GCDPTC), hosted by title sponsors Miss Utility of Delmarva, Miss Utility of Maryland and District One Call, was held Oct. 27–30 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Md. The event sold out with more than 375 attendees who came together to learn and share best practices in preventing damages to underground utilities— marking the conference's highest attendance yet.

Miss Utility of Delmarva, Miss Utility of Maryland and District One Call were joined by 26 other sponsors and an expanded exhibit hall of 40 exhibitors. Other highlights of the 2015 GCDPTC included a humorous, yet educational speech about reducing human error by keynote speaker Shane Bush, the third annual GCDPTC cornhole tournament, and the sixth annual golf tournament. The 2015 GCDPTC offered attendees an exciting lineup of 13 different educational sessions, including "ITIC Next

Generation," "Case Study: FBI Investigation into Locate Request Fraud," and "Excavation Equipment Best Practices."

"I would like to thank our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, attendees and keynote speaker Shane Bush for helping to make the conference's seventh year our biggest year yet," said Matt Ruddo, Chairman of the Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference. "Thanks to the continued participation and dedication of stakeholders in our region, the conference continues to be a great success in providing an outstanding educational forum for reducing damages to underground utilities."

Save the date for the 2016 GCDPTC, which will take place Oct. 18-21 in Ocean City. Visit www.missutilityconference.com in February for updates about next year's conference.



Safety First

OSHA—Confined Spaces Update



By: Chuck Northam

On May 4, 2015, OSHA issued its final ruling on confined spaces in construction, adding a dedicated Confined Spaces Standard (29 CFR 1926

Subpart AA) for the construction industry. Similar to the general industry confined standard, the construction standard acknowledges multi-employer worksites and requires the controlling contractor be the primary point of contact for confined space work. The controlling contractor is responsible for the confined spaces permit, gathering required information from host and entry employers, and ensuring that all employers not involved in confined space activity do not create additional hazards. The standard also requires continuous atmospheric and engulfment hazard monitoring, and allows a confined space permit to be suspended in the event of evacuation rather than canceled and replaced.

Employers are still responsible for ensuring only authorized employees enter the permit space and must take steps to prevent unauthorized employees from entering.

Training must be provided by the employer to any affected employee, ensuring employees



understand possible hazards in the permit space, methods to control those hazards, and the dangers of non-authorized employees attempting entry rescues. The standard also sets exceptions to construction work covered by the excavations, underground construction and diving subparts.

The new construction standard for confined spaces went into effect August 3, 2015.

Email Us! Win a \$25.00 Gift Card

Send an email to 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 midnight **February 15, 2016** to be in the drawing. Winners will be notified by email or phone, so please include a number to be contacted. **GOOD LUCK!**
Congratulations to our Fall 2015 Scoop Winners: Kathyern Banvard—Environmental Quality Resources; Pat Button—Environmental Quality Resources; Kim Cronin—Town of Smyrna Public Works; and Theresa Tyson—Delmarva Power.

	Aug 2015	Sep 2015	Oct 2015
Reported Damages	22	21	43
Tickets	95,300	95,172	115,589
Percentage	0.023	0.022	0.037

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Ask Miss Utility

I'm a contractor needing to place some underground utilities and need to have another utility moved or relocated to do my job. I would like to know who to contact.

Great Question: Handling Facility Relocations

The excavator must coordinate work that requires temporary or permanent interruption of a facility owner/operator's service directly with the affected facility owner/operator in all cases. Any temporary or permanent interruption requires the active participation of the facility owner/operator and the excavator to ensure protection of facilities through a joint preplanning meeting or conference call. The Service Centers can note special contractor requests for a joint meeting on the ticket to the facility owner/operator to initiate the process. There will likely be a significant fee from the facility owner/operator for relocations.

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.



Board Dinner



The Board of Miss Utility Delmarva out to dinner during The Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training Conference.

Congratulations to Brubacher - 2015 Dig Smart Winner

Written by: Wendy Stack

When challenged to choose from many excellent contractors that do underground excavation in Delmarva for our Dig Smart Award, we go through a thorough process to determine the best of the best.

Having a great Damage Prevention Program within a company requires participation with facility owners, locators and other onsite excavators. Practicing safety on a regular basis within companies, becomes challenging if not done correctly. Well, the Board of Miss Utility has chosen one exceptional company that knows how to step outside the box and stay in compliance with day to day safety.

We are privileged and honored to recognize one excavator each year that takes damage prevention to the next level.

This year's 2015 Dig Smart winner is Brubacher.

Ben Brubacher started the business in 1971 with a commitment to quality and safety for their customers and excavation practice. Their knowledge and experience across every aspect of excavation and site work has proven the company's practice with day to day safety.



Brubacher's commitment – We never cut corners or hide the obstacles we come across, even when no one is looking, to ensure success of the project and safety of employee's on the job. Brubacher provides many services which include Construction Surveying and Stake Out, Land Clearing, Drilling and Blasting, Asphalt Paving and Milling, Directional Drilling and much more. Please join us in congratulating Brubacher as our winner by checking out their web site www.brubacher.net.

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