

MISS UTILITY OF DELMARVA



The Scoop



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2022

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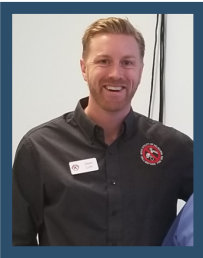
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Utility Defenders Educating at Magnolia Fire Department - Open House 2022

President's Message



Hello Team:

As fall is in full swing in our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, our industry is starting to understand the "new normal." Improvements and developments are continuing to pop up throughout our nation. In our territory, excavation tickets are about 7% lower than last year, but if you drive up and down our territory, you would think developments are more abundant than ever.

The locating contractors are trying to manage the workload and contractors are trying to work with the locating firms to complete their jobs on time for their clients. Supply chain issues and labor shortages are continuing to provide speed bumps. As always, we urge people to cooperate in our industry to get the job done and work together, regardless of all the issues.

Our team attended ten (10) public outreach events this summer. We initiated a partnership with the University of Delaware to promote our message. We plan on conducting new campaigns next year and attend as many public events as possible to spread the message.

Although some restrictions have been lifted, we are still faced with certain hurdles that we have deal with, such as meeting in person for our monthly meetings, which are typically being held in a hybrid format.

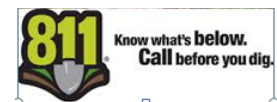
We proudly partnered with other stakeholders to hold the 2022 Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention

Training Conference. This conference was another unequivocal success, from the keynote speaker to the social events, to the breakout sessions, expectations were surpassed. The 2023 event will be conducted on October 24-27, 2023. We hope to see you there.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our organization with any issues, our website is www.missutilitydelmarva.com.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Lyon



*It doesn't matter who is digging or your age,
always safety first!*

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**ANTHONY (TONY) FRANCIS
GERSITZ – OCTOBER 28, 1929 TO
MAY 28, 2022**

I wanted to share a little about my friend Tony Gersitz that we recently sadly lost. Tony became a member of Miss Utility of Delmarva in the beginning of its existence, January 30th, 1974, and prior was involved in the old ways of having to call each Utility Company before performing excavation which was the beginning of the need for the “One Call Center”. He also was involved with other safety organizations that I cannot even count and some of these organizations don’t even exist any longer, but safety was always his passion.

Tony was a recognized representative of Safety for Miss Utility of Delmarva. When any educational events took place, if he wasn’t there others would reach our booth and ask, “Where is Tony?”. Everyone knew him and everyone loved him. He was the most recognized person of any of the Board Members and that is for certain. His kindness, intelligence and silly behavior just made him the guy you wanted to sit next to, the guy you wanted to talk to, the guy you wanted to learn from. He never moved forward from the personal touch of anything. When a company or excavator needed to be contacted for not complying with Miss Utility of Delmarva Laws, Tony always thought a letter, or a personal visit was the best way to handle business. He didn’t have an email, knew nothing about computers nor did he want to learn, just that kind of guy. Remember he thought that it was not good enough to just send an email. One on one education was his way to handle any situation and comfortable is how he made you feel!

Tony was 93 years old when he passed quietly in his own home with his friends by his side and reminded me that he lived a great and full life and that he didn’t want others to miss him but remember him and what he represented.

Tony will be forever remembered by Miss Utility of Delmarva with our newly named Locator Achievement Awards to be called “Tony Gersitz Locate Awards”. The Locate awards ceremony is held each year to recognize damage free locators in April as April is National Safe Digging Month.

Miss Utility of Delmarva will miss this outstanding member of our organization and will be remembering him by some stories posted on our website soon at www.missutilitydelmarva.com.

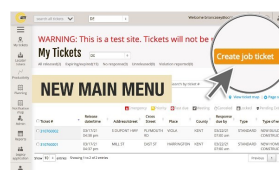
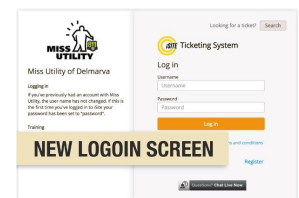
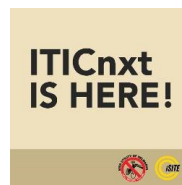


Tony Gersitz and Matt Ruddo - Greater Chesapeake Damage Prevention Training - 90th Birthday

DID YOU KNOW?

Emergency and Normal Locate Request have always been a bit confusing to our excavation and locating community due to different states have different laws, so below is some helpful information that you should know moving forward when processing tickets in Delaware.

In accordance with Title 26, Chapter 8 of the Delaware State Law, all operators shall respond to an excavation ticket request not more than 2 working days after receipt of such request. This language is applicable for both normal and emergency excavation requests, although the expectation is that utilities are marked within 2 hours of the request of emergency ticket. Currently, when an emergency ticket is submitted through our approved notification center, the response date for operators to locate their facilities is rounded up the nearest 15 minutes of when the request is received. This was created in an effort to elevate this request to the top of the locating software queue for the locator. Effective March 1, 2023, the outgoing emergency ticket notification will have a standard 2 day notice for completion.



Locator Achievement Awards

On Friday, April 29th, Miss Utility of Delmarva was proud to present the Locator Achievement Awards! The event was hosted by Harrington Raceway and Casino, and it recognized those underground utility locators who had excelled in their job during 2019, 2020 and 2021. Due to COVID-19 did not allow for the annual banquet for many years. These locators had ZERO at-fault damages, ZERO safety incidents and exhibited excellent working relationships with the excavation community.

Starting the evening with a special guest speaker, Greg Starheim, the former President and CEO of

Delaware Electric Cooperative, bringing a message of gratitude and safety appreciation to our fine winners of this event. Personally, thanking all our winners, but to also deliver an inspiring message as to why what we do is so important, and why locators, such as our winners, are such an integral part in the entire process.

We commend the hard work and dedication that all locators bring each day. Working in the heat, cold, rain, snow and wind isn't easy, and doing it great is even harder. Congratulations to all the excellent Locators and winners of this year's event!

Special Thanks to the Banquet Committee!



2022 Locator Achievement Awards

Locator Achievement Award Winners

2020

- Adrian Alvarez
- Bill Batcher
- Ben Cahall, Sr.
- McKinley Cartwright
- Larry Champlin
- John Covington
- Colleen Dalious
- Staci Dickerson
- Paul Donoway
- Marvin Dorsey
- Clinton Durham
- Jonathan Ebaugh
- Patrick Ellis
- Brett Evans
- Joe Evans
- Casey Gillespie
- Chris Greenwell
- Steve Hood
- Larry Howton
- Jason Ketner
- William Littleton
- Joshua Ney
- Martin Reza-Vazquez
- Pedro Rivera
- Kipland Sterling
- Barry Stevens
- William Taylor
- Randy Testerman
- Douglas Wearn

2019

- Bill Bather
- Rick Carrick
- McKinley Cartwright
- Larry Champlin
- Colleen Dalious
- Paul Donoway
- Marvin Dorsey
- Clinton Durham
- Patrick Ellis
- Ed Gains
- Stephen Geary
- Casey Gillespie
- Adonest Hall
- Craig Hillhouse
- Scott Hoffman
- Larry Howton
- Jason Ketner
- Stephen Lee
- Phil Morris
- Joshua Ney
- Pedro Rivera
- Lavant Stambro
- Barry Stevens
- Douglas Wearn

2021 Locator Achievement Award Winners

- Adrian Alvarez, Century Engineering
- Bill Bather, Chesapeake Utilities
- Ben Cahall, Sr., Easton Utilities
- Rick Carrick, Chesapeake Utilities
- Larry Champlin, Century Engineering
- Colleen Dalious, Eastern Shore NG
- Staci Dickerson, Century Engineering
- Paul Donoway, UtiliQuest
- Marvin Dorsey, Chesapeake Utilities
- Logan Dortch, UtiliQuest
- Patrick Ellis, Century Engineering
- Brett Evans, UtiliQuest
- Joe Evans, UtiliQuest
- Chris Greenwell, Delmarva Power
- Scott Hoffman, UtiliQuest/DEC
- Larry Howton, Eastern Shore NG
- Jason Ketner, Chesapeake Utilities
- William Littleton, W Locco, LLC
- Joshua Ney, Chesapeake Utilities
- Rob Riley, Chesapeake Utilities
- Pedro Rivera, Century Engineering
- Timothy Rust, UtiliQuest
- Megan Simmons, DEC
- Devin Smith, UtiliQuest
- Kipland Sterling, Century Engineering
- Barry Stevens, Century Engineering
- Jordan Walls, Sussex County Engineering
- Douglas Wearn, UtiliQuest



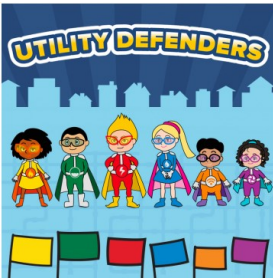
Tony Gersitz and Jason Lyon - Locator Achievement Awards



Please Join Us at the Miss Utility of Delmarva Member Meeting

Miss Utility of Delmarva members are interested in your concerns and will assist in any way possible to address your concerns. Come meet the members, contract locators, excavators, call center personnel and other stakeholders at the monthly Damage Prevention meetings. All aspects of damage prevention and safety are discussed and your voice matters. Meetings are usually held the third Thursday every month at various locations on Delmarva and virtually. Reach out to our Board Members if you are not receiving the monthly invite to be added to our database. Please visit www.missutilityofdelmarva.com for dates, directions and copies of the meeting minutes and attendance.

Utility Defenders



WHO ARE THE UTILITY DEFENDERS? Utility damage prevention and safety is vital to all industry stakeholders that include families, homeowners and communities. The newest damage prevention ambassadors are the Utility Defenders, a fictional team of

kid heroes representing gas, electric, water, sewer, communications and reclaimed water. These kids friendly heroes protect the underground utilities by promoting safety, awareness and education in their neighborhoods and communities. The creation of this children’s education project started in 2016 by Dora Parks who worked in utility damage prevention and safety for over 30 years in both contract locating and one call center operations while understanding the need to start educating at the early school age level. One Call Concepts (OCC) sponsored the project providing staffing to develop the program; creating the utility hero characters, building a website and Facebook page to interact with the public and provide a one stop store front to order Utility Defender educational and promotional materials in addition to marketing efforts. “There is nothing like a team of Utility Defenders in the industry, we can be the first to have an awareness tool that includes all the utility providers under one educational umbrella with the ability to reach kids and families for future generations of the construction industry’ said Dora Parks. Are you ready to join Team Utility Defenders? Utility Defenders debuted in October 2021 at the CGA national

damage prevention conference in Orlando, FL and again in 2022 in Phoenix, AR at the Global Excavation Conference and CGA conference in Anaheim, CA. Since then, Utility Defender partnerships have been included in children’s education from coast to coast to include, Oregon, Maryland, Nebraska, Montana, Washington DC and Delaware during family/ community outreach and professional events. Many states have partnered in utilizing the Utility Defenders Facebook page providing an additional layer of utility safety awareness. Utility Defenders content will provide children with experience and knowledge; • Learn about their community’s utility infrastructure. • Learn about the 811 notification system and industry stakeholders. • Be empowered to spread the word about safe digging, reminding grown-ups to call 811 before any digging project. • Understand how to “guard the yard” becoming aware of utility colored marks. • Engage with important mapping, science, math, spatial reasoning concepts that are relevant to underground utility safety. • Become aware of careers in construction, engineering and damage prevention-related trades. Check out and “like” or “share” the Utility Defenders Facebook page to see a preview of the positive, kid-friendly content to include activity and coloring sheets, games, lessons, conversation starters and spotlights on real damage prevention heroes. View an intro video of Utility Defender team at utility-defenders.com.

Damage Reporting by Members

As per Miss Utility of Delmarva by-laws, all member utilities are required to report facility damages monthly for statistical analysis. This information is collected for developing educational programs. Visit our website at www.missutilitydelmarva.com and select "Reporting" and then "Online Damage Report".

Submitting the first of each month allows the data to be collected and analyzed by the Board of Directors during the board meeting every Third Thursday of the month.

	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022
Reported Damages	14	29	30
Tickets	21,789	22,089	24,365
Percentage	0.064	0.131	0.123

Please check our website www.missutilitydelmarva.com for updates on events.