

**Eastern Virginia Damage Prevention Group
Area 3
May 12, 2009**

Persons in Attendance:

Lawrence Packett, Revere Gas
David Woolard, Town of Warsaw
Bill Clark, NNEC
Ricky Bride, Consolidated
Ralph Self, NNEC
Tina Kemp, JMD Const.
Pat Cline, City of Newport News
Gene Midkiff, Cable Assoc.
Bettie Cahoon, City of Chesapeake

Keith Herbert, Town of Warsaw
Mark France, Town of Warsaw
Mike Finerfrock, NNEC
Jeff Fitzgerald, Consolidated
John Hardee, SCC
Cindy Aycock, JMD Const.
James Bennett, SCC
Channing Guvernator, VUPS

The Area 3 meeting of the Eastern Virginia Damage Prevention group was held on May 12, 2009, and graciously hosted by Northern Neck Electric Cooperative at their office in Warsaw, Va.

James Bennett and John Hardee with the SCC shared the newest “Dig With Care” video with the group. There are English and Spanish versions on the same CD, and copies are available at no charge. Contact any representative of the SCC for copies. The SCC staff is also available for training at your site on request. All publications relative to damage prevention are available at no cost.

Revere Gas discussed the responsibility of marking private gas lines. It is the property owner’s responsibility to mark their gas line between the tank and the building. They can hire a private locating contractor to do this or Revere will mark it for a fee. Revere has revised their contracts to make homeowners more aware of their responsibilities in this area.

Some private gas operators (systems within subdivisions) and private water companies in the Northern Neck are not members of Miss Utility and may not be aware that they are required to be. Any education that attendees can pass along to others would be helpful.

Q. Mike Finerfrock with NNEC stated he has been told he cannot call in an emergency ticket for a single house without power. Is this true?

A. No. Any power outage is an emergency and should be treated as such. It should be added that reasonable people should determine an emergency. There are certainly abuses in the system, but education is the key to solving situations.

Channing Guvernator with VUPS updated the group on the updated mapping for web ticket entry. Parcel information is available for most areas, as well as, ortho photography. Ticket archive searches can no longer be requested using the contractor name. Callers have requested confidentiality.

Web ticket entry training is available at the Virginia Beach Library on a monthly basis. Contact Channing for more information.

The VUPS membership meeting is scheduled for June 10 in Virginia Beach.

The next holidays are Memorial Day (last Monday in May) and the July 4th holiday will be observed on Friday, July 3.

Q. How often are the state maps updated?

A. Once every 4 years. VGIN (Virginia Geographical Information Network) has one fourth of the state flown (ortho photography) every year.

Electronic white lining information will hopefully be available to locators in the near future.

The next meeting will be held in Area 1 on June 18, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Cahoon, Secretary