



Date: March 17, 2009

Location: 3013 Hungary Springs Rd, Richmond, VA 23228

Purpose: Central Virginia Local Damage Prevention Meeting

Chairperson: Kim Cranmer, Verizon

Meeting Summary:

Introduction: Kim Cranmer of Verizon introduced himself and welcomed all in attendance. He shared his goals for the Central VA DPC- get together, discuss issues, share information and solve problems at the local level.

Updates: Kim shared updates regarding footages and damages the FTTP/FiOS projects. VUPS shared upcoming training dates.

Focus: Conn Hayden of ProTrain, Inc. gave a presentation on trench safety and the dangers of gases. As a retired firefighter, he shared videos and stories of actual events. Also, Conn shared that complacency breeds bad habits. As for training,

1. Learn the hazards
2. Serious application
3. Continual practice of good learned behaviors
4. Appreciation of its benefits
5. Passing on good habits
6. Contagiousness of good habits

Conn recommended that when handling chemicals, read all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for immediate dangers to life (I.D.L.H). This document will state all of the possible known dangers and how to treat an exposure to the substance.

As for shoring, it should be four feet during trenching. For every 1,000 injuries, there are 140 persons disabled and 75 deaths caused by trenching accidents. One percent of annual work related deaths in the United States every year is due to lack of trench safety.

Conn shared a video showing the effects of a poorly prepared trench. The impact of a trench caving in is one square foot of dirt equals 90-120 pounds of pressure on the body. Trench safety rules can be found in CFR 1920.146.



Conn shared a video about the dangers of natural gas and propane. Propane is denser than air and sinks. Natural gas is less dense than air and rises. Since natural gas is odorless, an additive is combined with it to allow people to recognize its presence.

Roundtable: Attendees shared concerns about sewer and water laterals. One attendee stated that the Advisory Committee is considering the idea of making the contractor locate the water and sewer laterals on their locate request.

An attendee asked about the size of tracer wire for water and sewer laterals. It was stated that the size of the tracer wire is 12-gauge.

Tracey Lamb shared information on VUPS upcoming activities. These activities included the Damage Prevention Conference (April 20- 23) and WTE training at LaPrade library (April 29).

Closure: Kim thanked everyone for their attendance. With no further questions, he adjourned the meeting. The next meeting date and location has not been set.

Submitted by
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