



## **Northern Ohio Damage Prevention Council**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *Northern Ohio Damage Prevention Council is a proactive network of stakeholders involved in all phases of activities requiring excavation. Through open communication, education, and cooperation, council members work together to maintain service integrity to customers, protect the underground infrastructure and environment, and encourage the development of excavation activities that proceed in a safe and efficient manner.*

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### **Minutes for March 6, 2019**

Dominion Training Facility  
418 E Hines Rd  
Hudson, OH

**Presenter: Don MacBride**

**Topic: Joint Meeting Tour & Demonstration**

Meeting opened at 9:36 by Jim Mandera

Don MacBride began the presentation by introducing himself as a Technical Trainer with 47 years in the industry, training the largest group of employees at Dominion.

- National Fuel Gas Association
- Explosion Investigative Team
  - Displayed house explosions—most are criminal/urban mining
  - Incident history—95% caused by problems downstream of meter
  - Uncapped lines & brass connectors
  - 22,000 miles of gas pipes in ground
  - Weakest link in the piping system is uncoated brass connectors behind gas ranges—code says replace with new appliance
  - Other 5% are 3<sup>rd</sup> party damages & human error
  - Since January 2010, 42 incidents occurred on active accounts
  - Programs to prevent incidents
    - Inside & Outside Leak Investigation
    - One-Call
    - Field Metering Services Employees (go through 6 weeks of training)
- Three myths about Natural Gas
  - Easy to burn
  - Produces Carbon Dioxide
  - Is silent, odorless, colorless killer
- What is natural gas?
  - 95% methane
  - 5% butane, propane, ethane
  - Heat value is 1000 BTU per cubic foot
- 5-15% gas is required for combustion
  - Odorant is added to gas stream as the primary safety measure
  - Added so leaks are detectable at less than 1% gas
- Performed a combustion chamber demonstration
  - Look for a blue flame
  - Yellow flame can be fatal
- Typical home burns 20 MCF/month (1 MCF=11.2 gallons of water vapor)
- Where does Carbon Dioxide come from?
  - Appliances in closets
  - Plastic on windows, air tight homes
  - Lack of maintenance of gas appliances (pet hair build-up)

- Justin asked: What is homeowner responsible for?
- Don: We have all ownership of pipes up to the house at no cost to the customer
- Natural Gas Fundamentals Worksheet was available for members to complete throughout presentation
- Group took a tour of the facility
  - Displayed meters and erosion
  - Service regulators and meter stops

No minutes review. No agenda. No attendance drawing.

**OHIO811 Updates and Announcements (Chuck Green)**

- 84,227 tickets in February
- Up 9.97% from last year
- Up 7.36% YTD
- Over 600,000 notices went out in February

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kimberly Madden, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting April 3, 2019  
 Presenter: Michael Carlton, GPD Group**

The Illuminating Company  
 6896 Miller Rd  
 Brecksville, OH 44141

Email: [kmadden@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:kmadden@firstenergycorp.com) to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

**Utilities Council of Northern Ohio - Scheduled Meetings Dates for 2019**

January 2, 2019	No Meeting due to holiday	*
February 6, 2019	Rick Switalski, City of Cleveland	The Illuminating Company
March 6, 2019	Joint DPC meeting	*Dominion East Ohio's New Training Facility
April 3, 2019	Michael Carlton, GPD Group	The Illuminating Company
May 1, 2019	Monica Rakoczy, EnterTRAINING Solutions, LLC	The Illuminating Company
June 7, 2019	Annual Golf Outing	*Briarwood Golf Club
July, 2019	No meeting due to holiday	*
August 7, 2019	Fire Department	The Illuminating Company
September 4, 2019	Homeland Security	The Illuminating Company
October 2, 2019	Bill Hocesvar, UTC Update	*Great Lakes Construction
November 6, 2019	Les Hendershot, Safetyman	The Illuminating Company
December 6, 2019	Annual Breakfast	*

Please contact us at <http://www.oups.org/DPCouncils>