

CENTRAL OHIO DAMAGE PREVENTION COUNCIL

MINUTES August 19th, 2020

Builders Exchange of Central Ohio
1175 Dublin Rd.
Columbus, OH 43215

The August meeting of the Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council was held on August 19th, 2020 at 9:00 am. The meeting was held in person and also virtually. Introductions were made around the room and the mission statement was read by Lori Wade with Columbia Gas. The minutes from previous meeting were approved.

Council Treasurer George Gillespie opened the meeting by sharing a safety moment with the council. George spoke about summer storms and the high risks for lightening strikes due to a combination of high heat and humidity. He talked about what safety precautions one should take if caught in a lightning storm.

For the August 811 Day, "Spread the Word" videos were made by several different councils and utility owners. Steve shared these videos with the group. The CODPC 811 day event will be postponed till the following year due to Covid-19.

The meeting moved on to a discussion regarding damages and locate issues. Jim Bevard with Gudenkauf asked about letters being sent out from the Center. Beginning September 1, 2020, If Utility owners do not send a positive response within 48 hours, they will receive a notification from the center instruction them to do so. George then explained that a complaint can be filed against the utility owner if they have been unresponsive and this could lead to fines. Kevin Shimming explained that this has always been a part of the law, however as of 2016 fines can be applied. To be noted, for "On-going" jobs, Utility owners can respond with a 004 or a 007 response however, if responding with a 007, this should be documented.

The council moved on to discuss New Business , Industry & Regional News.

New Business - The CODPC will continue to host both virtual and on site meetings. This council has been one of the first to provide council meetings in this format and is starting to be adopting by the other Ohio DPC councils.

Industry News - The Next UTC meeting will be held on September 3, 2020 at the Igel Building. The schedule for the Excavator Seminars has been posted and will also have the option to attend virtually. George shared that the ticket numbers are still up for the year despite the covid-19 outbreak and is happy to report that 55% of tickets are being done via remote entry, would like for this number to continue to grow.

Regional News – The CGA meeting will be held March 2nd-5th in Orlando Florida and the Excavation Safety Conference will be held March 23rd-25th in Tampa Bay Florida.

The meeting moved on to an open discussion. George warned the council that utility owners and locators need to be sure they are responding to Design Tickets correctly as there was a conference call

the previous Monday with ODOT who is unhappy with how these tickets are currently being handled due to unresponsiveness and lack of prints for design tickets. The law requires utility owners to respond within 10 working days by either A. Marking Utilities or B. Providing a digital or paper drawings drawn to scale with locatable utilities.

Steve asked council to think about topics of interest and suggestions of guest speakers. He would like to bring back Paul Peterson to discuss signage for safety zones.

Jacque Kelley suggested having someone speak on how to accurately document damaged utilities.

The August CODPC council meeting came to a close around 10:00 AM. The next meeting will be held September 16th and will also have the option to attend virtually as well as in person.

