

The November meeting of the Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council took place all virtual on November 18, 2020. Steve Buskirk read the mission statement. Review of the October meeting minutes took place and minutes were approved by a motion from Steve Buskirk and second by Andrea Davis. There were (19) in attendance on the call

Mike Johnson, Damage Prevention Specialist with Columbia Gas, gave an important and timely safety message about ladder safety. This is the time of year when many people are on ladders cleaning gutters or hanging holiday decorations. In his message, he stated he's extremely familiar with ladder safety and is always safe at work but never seemed to follow the same guidelines at home. Knowing the ladder was barely above the overhang, he continued working and as the ladder sank a little bit, he fell backwards, landing on a tree stump and severely injuring his back and ended up with a spinal bleed and in the hospital in ICU, missing three months at work... The thought of him possibly missing his children growing up, graduating from high school and college and seeing his Grandchildren made him realize there is no time that you should discount your safety and to always watch for the safety of others.

George Gillespie recounted a damage to a water line during excavation involving directional drilling, the contractor pot holed to the depth of their drilling rod, no utility was found. Assuming the waterline was below their pot hole and continued on, hitting the water line 30 feet past where water line was located. When water line hit was reported to OHIO811, the City responded. They told the excavator that it was their responsibility to locate said water line. Water line was hit 30 feet off the locate marks. The directional driller followed the Ohio revised code 3781.30 which can be found on OHIO811 website and 811 app.

Steve Buskirk shared a video of a directional drilling excavation where a phone line was hit and completely wrapped around the bore head and bits and was pulled completely out of the ground by the driller. Site assessment is important on all jobs and especially with Directional Drilling practices and the amount of new facilities going in and the lag time getting them mapped

Ticket volume remains on pace to set another record in 2020. It was noted that for Franklin County in October, there were 150 dig in tickets called in, and as of the date of the meeting 100 dig in tickets for November.

There was discussion around the bylaws and some changes that were made. The new logo was added and the name changed to Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council, the changes are highlighted in the attachment with these minutes.

The all Ohio Damage Prevention Council will select two members from each council to sit on the Marking Standards Committee. They are looking to have a diverse group of industry representatives. Joel Johnson, Liz Pyles and Lori Wade have expressed interest in sitting on the committee. If you have an interest in being considered for the committee, please let Steve Buskirk know.

Discussion then turned to our December meeting which typically involves a end of year celebration with a breakfast or lunch. It was determined that this year's meeting will most likely be virtual and further discussion will take place among the officers to discuss door prizes and everyone getting something from the council.

Officer elections will also take place during the December meeting, all positions are open. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a position please contact Steve Buskirk. The position of secretary will be vacated this year and at this time we have one person nominated for that position.

In industry news, it was announced that the CGA conference that was to be held in March has been moved to October 12-15th 2021 and information on that meeting can be found at cgaconference.com. The Global Excavation Safety Conference is expected to move their meeting from March as well, more

information can be found on their website globalexcaavationsafetyconference.com.

In OHIO811 News, as of this meeting there have been 1,298,000 tickets called in, that is a increase of .20%, remote ticket entry is up at 56.47% with CSR calls a little below 44%. Please continue to promote remote ticket entry as it helps with the accuracy of your dig request and helps to hold down costs at the center. Franklin County Engineers will be helping to spread the important safety message by adding 10" Call Before You Dig decals to all Franklin County Engineers equipment.

A question about white flags being available at Ohio811 was asked and answered. Members can order white flags for pre-marking through OHIO811 up to 250 a month. They can be ordered off of the OHIO811 website under [resources/catalog](#).

It was asked of the council members on the call to try to boost our Excavator participation at meetings as well as contractors and contract locators. If you have ideas for future speakers for 2021, find interesting videos out on platforms such as YouTube pertaining to Damage Prevention, please feel free to contact our council president, vice president or secretary to add those to the agenda. Please continue to watch for future updates on our December end of year celebration meeting.

All of us at the Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council hope you and your family have a very Happy Thanksgiving.