

# 2022 Newsletter Q1

## NEWS FOR AND FROM OUR MEMBERS



**MISSION STATEMENT: THE CENTRAL OHIO DAMAGE PREVENTION COUNCIL WAS CREATED TO PROMOTE SAFETY BY BRINGING TOGETHER UNDERGROUND FACILITY OPERATORS, GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, EXCAVATORS, INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE GOAL OF REDUCING DAMAGES TO UNDERGROUND FACILITIES, TO PROVIDE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, AND TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS, INVOLVEMENT, AND COMMITMENT TO THESE GOALS.**



# A Message from the President



Greetings Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council (CODPC) members,

Spring has sprung and the 2022 construction season is under way. I am sure each of you have a growing project list and workload. I hope with the warm weather and sunshine we can stay focused on our goal of fostering communication and cooperation regarding our projects in an effort to reduce damages.

April has also been given the name “Safe Digging Month” by proclamation given by Governor Mike DeWine. The Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council also has an April Safe Dig event. This year we are working at the Ohio Avenue Elementary School. We are hoping to provide a community garden and other items to be used by the school. I hope each of you are able to participate in person or make a donation to support the event. This is scheduled during our next monthly meeting on April 20, 2022. You can read additional information on page 5.

This year is the 50th anniversary for OHIO811. They have designed a new logo for this year. Please feel free to use this new logo on your materials. We will be celebrating this anniversary in August at the Annual Membership Meeting. Please let me know if you need information on how to attend.

Our typical monthly meetings are held as a hybrid meeting at 9:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. For those attending in person the meeting will be held at the BX of Central Ohio at 1175 Dublin Road Columbus Ohio 43215. While April is Safe Dig Event, we will be back to a meeting setting on May 18, 2022.

Thank you,

Steve Buskirk

[sbuskirk@franklincountyengineer.org](mailto:sbuskirk@franklincountyengineer.org)





In the Name and by the Authority of

# THE STATE OF OHIO



**WHEREAS**, each year in the state of Ohio, the underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage by those who fail to have underground facilities located prior to digging, resulting in possible service interruptions, damage to the environment, personal injury and even death; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to reduce these damages, the Ohio Utilities Protection Service has partnered with the Common Ground Alliance to promote the national Call Before You Dig number, 8-1-1, as well as the use of safe digging practices; and

**WHEREAS**, designated by the Federal Communications Commission in 2005, 8-1-1 provides potential excavators and homeowners a simple number to reach their local One Call Center to request utility line locations at the intended dig site; and

**WHEREAS**, by following safe digging practices, excavators and homeowners can save time and money by making a simple call to 8-1-1 in advance of any digging project, waiting the required amount of time for the utility to be located, respecting the location marks by maintaining visual definition throughout the excavation and digging with care around the marks; and

**WHEREAS**, through educational efforts, Ohioans can save time and money keeping our state safe and connected by making a simple call to 8-1-1 in advance of any digging project.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, *Mike DeWine and Jon Husted*, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize April as

## SAFE DIGGING MONTH

On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2022;

Mike DeWine  
Governor



Jon Husted  
Lieutenant Governor

# 2022

# APRIL SAFE DIGGING EVENT!

Come Join the Miami Valley Damage Prevention Council as we celebrate April Safe Digging Month!



This year's presentation will focus on safe practices with directional drilling and hydro-vac excavating. After the presentation, there will be a live demonstration of the process with an explosive surprise!

## 2022 APRIL SAFE DIGGING EVENT INFORMATION:

**Date:** 04/27/2022

**Time:** Doors Open- 11:00am  
Lunch Served- 12:00pm

**Where:** Greene County Expo Center  
120 Fairground Rd  
Xenia, Ohio 45385

This event includes food, fun, prizes, and an opportunity to meet the Miami Valley Damage Prevention Council members. These Council members are representatives from local utility companies, excavators, and other local leaders and stakeholders committed to the damage prevention process.

Please RSVP by April 20th using the QR code or contact :

Jim Wooten  
CenterPoint Energy  
937-541-2537  
jim.wooten@centerpointenergy.com



# Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council

## April Safe Dig Event

The CODPC is partnering with Ohio Avenue Elementary to create a larger school garden.

Ohio Avenue Elementary School  
505 S Ohio Ave  
Columbus, Ohio 43205



**April 20, 2022**  
**8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### Projects:

- 4, 3' x 8' raised beds to allow children to reach the middle for planting
- 2, 3' x 6' x 40" tall handicap accessible planter boxes
- 2, benches for sitting area
- install landscaping around flag pole and near building
- install stone walking path around garden boxes
- plant 3 fruit trees



**We are seeking volunteers, materials, tools and equipment to make this possible.**

**There is opportunity for companies to sponsor a project.**

Please let us know if you are able to help in anyway.

Steve Buskirk  
sbuskirk@franklincountyengineer.org  
Liz Pyles  
epyles@franklincountyengineer.org



Bonus Project: 10' x 10' concrete slab and pergola for outside class setting

# Southwest Ohio Utility Safety Council

The Southwest Ohio Utility Safety Council is participating in the the Red's Opening Day Parade on April 12, 2022. For more information contact Gene Barbour, geneb@oups.org.

## OHIO811 50th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Membership Meeting

Dates: Wednesday, August 17th thru Friday, August 19th

Location: The Grand Resort, Warren, Ohio 9519 E Market St, Warren, OH 44484

Description: Each year we look forward to bringing our membership, industry partners, and special guests together at our Annual Membership Meeting. We are especially excited for this year's event as it will celebrate our 50th Anniversary of promoting public safety through the protection of Ohio's critical network of underground utilities.

Watch for more information to come through email, or check the OHIO811 website.

## Spreading the 811 Message



The City of Columbus - Department of Public Service, Design and Construction stand by an 811 banner hanging at the Michael B Coleman Government Center, 111 N Front St, Columbus Ohio - 1st Floor.

Standing from Left to Right: Cristina Parady, Rob Miller, and Dave Holstein

# Member Spotlight

My name is James Jewell from Dublin, Ohio. I have been married 34 years to my wife Karen and we have one daughter Gretchen, who is 29 and married. If I'm not working, I volunteer for a handful of non-profit organizations in the area and I enjoy golfing.



## **1. Can you tell us about your career?**

I started my career at the Franklin County Engineer's Office in 1983 in the Highway Maintenance Department. During that time, I worked around underground utilities and learned more about damage prevention. In 1995, I became the Utility Coordinator, working with utilities in the right-of-way. In 2003 I was elected as a Trustee to the Ohio Utilities Protection Service's Board. Throughout the 17 years as a Trustee, I served on several different committees, was Vice-Chair, and Chairman of the Board. In 2018, I was selected by the Governor to represent the General Public on the Underground Technical Committee. I just recently retired and am now the Prairie Township Administrator.

## **2. What are your biggest rewards and challenges at work?**

I feel my biggest reward working at the township is creating affordable housing while balancing land usage for community improvements. One of my challenges is to clean up the community, working on nuisance violations which is getting properties cleaned up in the area. My other challenge is to work on Prairie Township to becoming a member of the Ohio Utilities Protection Service.

## **3. How long have you been involved with the CODPC?**

The first meeting I attended was the second meeting ever for the Council and was invited by Columbia Gas. There was a lady from Milwaukee with AT&T that came to Columbus and started the council with AT&T, Columbia Gas, the Franklin County Engineer's Office, George J. Igel & Co., Inc, and AEP. The group met together to work on damage prevention. It was a group of people that wanted to meet monthly about issues and upcoming projects. O.U.P.S. joined shortly after to help with the communication and organization.

The first President was Melanie Powers with Columbia Gas and Vice-President was Ken Yost with the City of Columbus. The terms were two years as Vice-President to then have two years as President. Once Ken Yost moved to being President, I became the second Vice-President for the council and then President.

## **4. How has being a member on the CODPC benefitted you in your position?**

The networking with all those involved with CODPC has been very helpful. At the same time the opportunity to not re-invent the wheel for public safety, we share all of our ideas with each other and move forward with new ones.

## **5. What would you say to future perspective members of the CODPC?**

If you can, get involved. You should take the opportunity to be as active of a member as you can be, such as a sub-committee member or officer.

**James Jewell, Township Administrator, [jjewell@prairietownhip.org](mailto:jjewell@prairietownhip.org)**

Prairie Township | 23 Maple Drive | Columbus, Ohio 43228 | 614.982.2181

They say April Showers bring May Flowers, but with those rains comes hazards on the job site as well as during your day-to-day activities off the job site. These next few articles will help you understand how to safely navigate and mitigate some of these dangers.

# Dangers of Working in Muddy Conditions

Credit: GARCO

Weather can create many hazards and slow down production for construction sites and other work sites that are outdoors. This is especially true when rain creates excessively muddy conditions. Slipping on a wet surface can result in bruises, strains and sprains, lacerations, fractures, head trauma and even fatality. There are many different hazards to consider if work is going to take place in muddy conditions.

## Hazards and Injuries Created by Muddy Work Areas

- Equipment and vehicle crashes or overturn: traction and control are greatly reduced when operating on mud
- Slips, trips, and falls: walking around or getting into equipment in the mud can lead to slipping or falling
- Sprains and strains: many people will pull muscles due to getting their boots stuck in the mud and trying to yank them out
  - Also, falling over with your feet stuck in an awkward position can lead to suffering a sprain or strain injury

## Best Practices When Working in Mud

- The single best practice is eliminating work in excessively muddy areas until it clears up or work areas are addressed
- Dress up areas with equipment such as a bulldozer to get down to more solid ground
- If work is continuing in an area that is muddy, stop when needed to dress it up again
  - It takes less time to fix an area to make it safer than it does to pull out stuck vehicles or equipment that tips over
- Never drive into excessively muddy areas or down slick slopes
  - Getting stuck creates more hazards due to other personnel having to come into the field to pull out your vehicle or equipment
- If you get your foot stuck in the mud, slowly work it out by moving your foot back and forth
  - Yanking on it is not very effective and can result in injury
- Maintain clean steps on equipment and remove mud off of your boots before climbing up and down equipment
  - Always use three points of contact

## Summary

While these safeguards seem like common sense, many injuries and property damage incidents occur every year due to poor site conditions. Use your best judgement when working in the mud. Do not put yourself in a situation where you make a bad situation worse. Always adjust work plans to site conditions.

Remember, success starts with safety!

# Working in the Rain, Safely

Credit: GARCO

It probably happened to you more than one time before. You're on the field on a cloudy day when suddenly the wind blows your way and before long, the rain starts and you end up soaked on the job. Because you did not expect this sudden change in weather, you end up cold and wet and possibly even sick later. When you're uncomfortable, you're more at risk of committing mistakes and meeting accidents. So, read on and know more about maintaining safety during changing weather.



Employees working in the rain face additional hazards, such as poor visibility and wet, slippery surfaces. Here are work practices that will help prevent accidents and injuries when working in the rain.

- **Move more slowly and carefully.** When working in the rain, a natural reaction is to try to work more quickly to get back inside as soon as possible. However, because rain makes everything more slippery, you should do the exact opposite—work more slowly and deliberately to prevent slipping and falling, especially when climbing ladders.
- **Use the correct equipment.** Do not use electrical tools and equipment that are not specifically rated for outdoor use when working in the rain. When using hand tools, use tools with textured, nonslip grip handles.
- **Wear appropriate rain gear.** If you are cold and wet, you are likely concentrating more on how miserable you are than the work at hand. Rain gear which includes both a coat and pants or overalls and is ventilated, should be worn for prolonged wet-weather work. If it's cold and rainy, wool or synthetic fibers specifically designed for cold weather use are the best for wear under rain gear because they will keep you warm even if it gets wet. Also, wear rain gear that is the proper size; if it's too large, it may interfere with movement.
- **Wear appropriate footwear.** Footwear for use in inclement weather should have deep treads to help prevent slipping. Footwear that is in poor condition (treads are worn down or worn smooth or footwear with holes) should not be worn. To keep water out of shoes or boots, make sure the top of the shoe or boot extends above the ankle, and rain gear extends to the ankles. Also, the top of the boot or shoe should be inside the pant leg (as opposed to tucking the pant leg into the footwear).
- **Use proper hand protection.** When doing work requiring a sure grip (using hand tools, for example), wear gloves that fit snugly and provide a nonslip grip. To prevent water from entering gloves, make sure that the sleeve of the glove is either tight-fitting or is long enough to fit under the cuff of your raincoat.
- **Ensure that you can see.** If wearing goggles or eyeglasses, use anti-fogging sprays or wipes on them before going outside. Be sure that the area you are working in is well lit; if needed, light the area using lights rated for outdoor use. Wear hoods or hats to keep the rain out of your eyes. Also, since hoods on rain gear narrow your range of vision, make it a point to turn your head to look both ways and above and below you when wearing a hood in the rain.
- **Make sure that you can be seen.** If working in an area where there is vehicular traffic (trucks, cars, forklifts, etc.), always wear bright-colored, reflective vests or rain gear, even during the day. Do not wear rain gear or vests that have become worn and are dull and/or no longer reflective.

# JOBSITE CHECKLIST: FORECASTED SEVERE WEATHER

When severe weather is imminent, you'll need an action plan to secure your site and keep your workers from harm. Though the exact steps will depend on the weather you're preparing for, follow these general steps to ready your site for anything.

**Secure lightweight materials:** Many severe weather events have high winds. Secure signage and loose articles either inside or under tarps.

**Get employees off scaffolds:** During dangerous weather conditions such as thunderstorms, snowstorms or wind events, have all workers dismount scaffolding around the jobsite. Secure the scaffolding to the building to prevent its collapse.

**Prevent drain blockages:** Don't let sand clog drains. Place filters over the drains or protect them from dirt accumulation to prevent flooding. Also, clear stormwater inlets and catch basins of any debris.

**Check water pumps:** Keep your water pumps in top condition to prevent flooding of subgrade areas.

**Cover holes:** Cover excavation holes on your jobsite to protect them from flooding.

**Disconnect power:** Disconnect any temporary power connections. If you intend to restart operations and local power is still out, have a working generator onsite. If necessary, you may rent a generator. After Hurricane Sandy, rental power generators helped the entire area get back to normal. Also, shut off gas and water connections, if you have those on the jobsite.

**Secure equipment:** If you can, move equipment into a sheltered area until the storm passes. Also, cover and secure any dumpsters and smaller trash receptacles.

**Remove temporary structures:** Dismantle all temporary structures, including fencing around your jobsite. Failing to remove these structures could result in you having to search the neighborhood for them after the storm when they blow away in the wind. Lower any onsite booms you have, too.

**Cover windows:** Cover windows with storm shutters or plywood. Do not use tape over windows, as it does not prevent glass from shattering.

**Schedule workers:** Depending on the weather, you may have to stop working at least 24 hours before the storm. Schedule workers who will help with last-minute storm preparation and who will return after the storm to assist with recovery.

## RECOVERING FROM SEVERE WEATHER

Getting your jobsite back up and running will require efforts from your workers beyond their typical jobs. Contact all your workers to see if any cannot return to work due to blocked roads or storm damage at their homes. Clean up any debris around the site and assess the area for damages. If you had any losses, make notes and take pictures. Depending on your policy, the claims process may differ. Always consult with your insurance agent for policy-specific questions.

# Job Site Safety During Tornado Season

Tornadoes can strike anywhere in the U.S, which has more tornadoes annually than any other country.

With wind speeds up to 300 miles per hour, tornadoes can chew up anything in their path — including a construction site.

Spring and summer are the peak seasons for these swirling funnel clouds. A loud roar, a sudden calm after a thunderstorm or a dark, greenish sky can mean trouble is imminent.

A job site may not offer much in the way of shelter, but smart tornado prep can help keep everyone safe.

## Put an emergency-response plan in place

Having a plan can help protect workers and avoid confusion in the event of a major weather event such as a tornado. Here are a few guidelines:

- Make sure the project office has a battery-operated weather radio and extra batteries.
- Create a system to know who's on site.
- Determine how you will warn workers of an emergency.
- Designate a safe zone.
- Use a roster to account for workers as they take refuge.
- Designate which crew member(s) will survey the site for damage post-tornado and who will determine what repairs should be done before the crew resumes work (usually the site superintendent).
  - Make sure crew knows that when returning to work stations, they should proceed with caution and inform supervisors of downed power lines and other damage.
  - Plan ahead.. have a talk about what to do if a tornado warning is issued.

If there's time, take these steps

If the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning, workers should head for safety ASAP. (A tornado warning is issued when a twister has been sighted or indicated on radar.) A tornado watch, on the other hand, gives you more time to prepare. (It means conditions may be ripe to produce a tornado.)

# Water is a very powerful force and should NEVER be underestimated

## Major Flooding

Extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.

## Record Flooding

Flooding which equals or exceeds the highest stage or discharge observed at a given site during the period of record.

## Moderate Flooding

Some inundation of structures and roads near stream. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.

## Minor Flooding

Minimal or no property damage, but possibly some public threat (e.g., inundation of roads).



### Do You Really Know How Deep the Water is?

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.

WHEN FLOODED TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

Flash floods occur suddenly and usually within hours of excessive heavy rainfall. Flash floods become raging torrents of water, ripping through neighborhoods, streets, valleys, etc. sweeping away whatever is in their path. Flash floods can also occur with a dam or levee failure. Heavy rain should be a signal to alerting you to the possibility of dangerous flood conditions.

### Flash Flood WATCH

issued when conditions look favorable for flash flooding. A WATCH usually encompasses several counties. This is the time to start thinking about your plan of action and where you would go if water begins to rise.

### Flash Flood WARNING

issued when dangerous flash flooding is happening or will happen soon. A WARNING is usually a smaller, more specific area. This can be issued due to excessive heavy rain or a dam/levee failure. This is when you must act quickly as flash floods are an imminent threat to you and your family. You may only have seconds to move to higher ground.

### Flash Flood EMERGENCY

issued for the EXCEEDINGLY RARE situations when extremely heavy rain is leading to a severe threat to human life and CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE from a flash flood is happening or will happen soon. Typically, emergency official are reporting LIFE THREATENING water rises resulting in water rescues/evacuations.

River and creek flooding occurs when heavy rain and runoff fill the river basins with water too quickly. These waters can rise rapidly. Keep away and don't let children or pets near these areas.

### River Flood and Flash Flood Safety Rules:

- During periods of heavy rains, stay away from flood prone areas such as stream beds, drainage ditches and culverts.
- Move to higher ground if flooding threatens your area.
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- Be especially cautious at night as it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- Never drive your car into water of unknown depth. Most flash flood deaths occur when people drive their vehicles into flood waters. Remember: Turn Around Don't Drown!!
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Flood water may rise quickly, cover the vehicle and sweep it away.
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- Stay out of flooded areas. The water may still be rising and very swift. A rapidly flowing stream can sweep you off your feet and sweep your vehicle downstream.
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- Children are especially vulnerable and should not be allowed to play in or around flowing water.
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- Water can run off streets and parking lots rapidly, causing natural and man-made drainage systems to overflow with flood waters.
- If you live or work in flood prone areas, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- Flood waters can hide rocks, trees, trash and other debris that can be dangerous to someone in their path.