

# Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council Minutes

## March 2023

The March meeting of the Central, Ohio Damage Prevention Council was held on March 15th. The meeting was called to order at 9 o'clock by Steve Buskirk, the mission statement was read by Joel Johnson, the emergency action plan was discussed by Greg First. Approval of the February meeting minutes was first by Steve Buskirk second by Joel Johnson, introductions around the room were made.

Attendees:

1. Baxter, Kevin
2. Bowling, Bryan
3. Broyles, Jason
4. Buskirk, Steve
5. Campbell, Kevin
6. Davis, Andrea
7. First, Greg
8. Foley, Jon
9. Griffin, Vonda
10. Hegwood, Bradley
11. Hunt, Aaron
12. Jewell, James
13. Johnson, Joel
14. Thayer, Zachary
15. Tonetti, Alan
16. White, Derek
17. Zellers, Drew

Our guest speaker was Derek White with the George J. Igel & Co., Inc. talking about work zone safety, traffic control plan and signage. Great discussion about this topic from others with their experiences in work zones and how they've made improvements to their processes after incidences.

Steve Buskirk gave a recap of the global excavation and safety conference. 811 centers across the country are also facing challenges with staffing, as we are here in the great state of Ohio. Digital white lining seemed to be a hot topic, Ohio is working on it, but we are most likely a few years out with implementation. They were able to attend a lot of excellent seminars on technology, the use of ground penetrating radar, Damage risk analysis, call versus click, are Internet tickets less likely to be damaged?

Under damages or locate issues... It was brought up that locators are having a hard time keeping up with the record volume of tickets, they are already seeing a lot of stress across the industry in the state, there's definitely a need for more locators and better pay. Late tickets and ticket volume were brought up as well. It was suggested the possible UTC complaints would help with no marks or late marks. Also discussed, the topic of design tickets, both physical markings or plans can be submitted to satisfy the requirements for designs. Understaffing across the industry is certainly an issue. Also, discussed were piggybacking off of others tickets, a no-no and the number of repeat tickets coming in before jobs are being started, that puts a huge strain on locate resources.

The marking standards committee recap will be given at next meeting, as well as a recap of the CODPC/UCC meeting. It was noted that the excavator manuals are available in Spanish for any non-English-speaking workers you may have on your crews or encounter in the field.

Greg First gathered some terrific information regarding possible locations that we can coordinate for our annual April dig safe event. Dodge park was brought up at a previous meeting but is a city owned park and not much we can do with that, Ohio Avenue elementary was revisited, and Greg said everything is still looking very good there, the Karl Road YMCA has a community garden which needs a lot of attention, and a cancer survivor veteran in the Prairie Township area could really use some assistance with some landscaping and property cleanup. There is also a community garden on 17th Ave., called the South Central Commons which could definitely use some help. More

discussion will be had at our April meeting to finalize plans. Greg First and John Foley have generously volunteered to coordinate the projects.

Speaking of volunteers... We are still looking for a tech savvy member who would like to take the lead in initiating our social media presence such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Please reach out to Liz Pyles or Greg First if you are interested.

All of the members of the Central, Ohio Damage Prevention Council would like to give a very loud shout out and thank you to Steve Buskirk for his years serving as president of our Council. He did a superb job and will be missed in that role as he will be stepping down after this months meeting. We will still have the pleasure of his attendance at some meetings, and they have graciously agreed to let us continue to hold our meetings at the Franklin County Engineers office. If any of our members have a desire to fill-in, or nominate someone for the position when the nominations become , please be thinking about that.

In industry news, the OHIO811 excavator seminars have been a huge success. Ticket volume across the state is up last month 26.6% and those numbers are expected to increase as we get further into dig season... Year-to-date ticket volume is 201, 566, up 22.4% from last year. Buckle up everybody it's going to be a busy year. The UTC will meet on March 30 at 9 AM. The OUDPC will meet 3/23 to go over the recommendations, put forth by the subcommittees

Please remember to submit any ideas for stories or information for the upcoming newsletter, we are still looking for a member spotlight to volunteer.

The next meeting of the Central, Ohio Damage Prevention Council will be held Wednesday, April 19 at 9 AM at the Franklin County Engineers office, 970 Dublin Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43215.