



NODPC Meeting

Wednesday, February 4th, 2026

09:30am to 11:00am

6363 Selig Drive, Independence

1. Introductions

- There were forty-seven individuals in attendance

2.) Meeting Minutes Approved

- The January meeting minutes were sent out and available at the meeting. The meeting minutes were approved without revisions.

3.) Presentation: Conducting a Utility Damage Investigation by Steven Hill

- Steve's presentation came from a discovery that many companies don't have a set way to perform a damage investigation.

- "Just one more scoop" is often what excavators feel before striking a line

- Steve gave a unique perspective on how emotions differ based on the individual (locator, excavator, home/business owner) and how they can hinder the ability to interpret information.

- Who, what, why, when, and how need to be asked about every damage (Who was involved, what was damaged, why did it happen when did it occur, how did the damage occur, etc.)

- Steve reminded everyone of the importance of quality photographs, especially before you begin your excavation. Photos should show background landmarks (such as structures that don't move, curbs, utility structures, etc) so that they may be easily lined up with damage photos (should one occur). Excavators and locators alike should tell a story through their photographs. Steve recommended adding time stamps to all photos to ensure it is defensible should litigation occur.

- Take photographs off all vehicles onsite.

- Steve brought up how vaults and hand holes are much larger than they appear at ground level.

- Andrew Apathy added to ensure you add your positive response to your photos.
- Brad Logan mentioned the SoLocator app that will add GPS and timestamps to your photos.

4.) OHIO811 Updates

- In January, there were 94,844 notifications to the center which was down 1.8% year over year.
- This year's Cleveland area Paradigm pipeline safety meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17th at 7am at Todaro's party center in Akron. Please ensure to register at Pdgim.com.
- OHIO811's new software is being tested at the center now. It is planned to be completely switched to Center Logix by the end of February. OHIO811 is in contact with ticket management services for locate companies.

5.) April Safe-Dig Event Subcommittee

- The subcommittee will be meeting right after today's meeting. There were no updates due to the cancellation of last week's bi-weekly update call.

6.) Open Discussion

- ODOT brought up a concern that a utility company told them that they weren't going to mark and to just "hit the line and they'll come repair it". This brought a discussion about how Ohio is not a reporting state for damages.
- We discussed cases submitted to the UTC MUST have proper documentation and facts as the complaint party does not have the opportunity to voice in front of the committee.
- Justin discussed the importance of attending the OUDPC meeting to stay up to date on latest changes and discussions.
- Kevin Anderson asked if OHIO811 has discussed revisiting/changing our positive response codes. There are situations nowadays where the codes don't fit the details. Justin Freudeman stated that there isn't a subcommittee established for it, but it has come up. Matt Hennis stated that there are only two responses that truly "close" a ticket – 001 No Conflict or 002 Marked.
- We discussed having a joint meeting with Eastern DPC in September.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1022am.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, at City of Independence Civic Center (Willow Room)