

# In the Trenches

Know what's below.  
Call **MISS DIG 811**  
before you dig.



July 2021, vol. 13



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## ***EXTRA! EXTRA!***

***Read All About It!***

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There are moments in history that have changed the excavation world as we know it, one of those moments is soon to arrive! A **BIG** announcement will be coming from MISS DIG 811 in the August issue of 'In The Trenches' that will change the way Dig Notices are placed forever. Stay tuned!



## **LIVE SEP's ARE BACK !**

MISS DIG 811 once again will offer LIVE Safe Excavation Practices Certification Workshops.

With restrictions of COVID-19 being lifted MISS DIG 811 will

once again make live Safe Excavation Practices Certification Workshops available to our members and the public. The Safe Excavation Practice Workshop offers a MISS DIG 811 Certification and Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) for those that complete the course with a passing grade. Best of all, its all **FREE!**

The SEP Certification is good for one year and covers all information a MISS DIG 811 member needs to know.

Our Continuing Education Credits are offered in a variety of fields and are earned with passing of the SEP course. Plus they are FREE! (sample of credits to the right)

If your company, municipality or organization would like to have one of our MISS DIG 811 Education Specialists visit your facility to present an SEP Certification Course please reach out to:

Eric Urbain at [eurbain@missdig811.org](mailto:eurbain@missdig811.org)  
(South West Michigan)

Dave Bowen at [dbowen@missdig811.org](mailto:dbowen@missdig811.org)  
(South East Michigan)

Pat Goddard at [pgoddard@missdig811.org](mailto:pgoddard@missdig811.org)  
(Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Michigan)

## Safe Excavation Practices - Continuing Education Credits

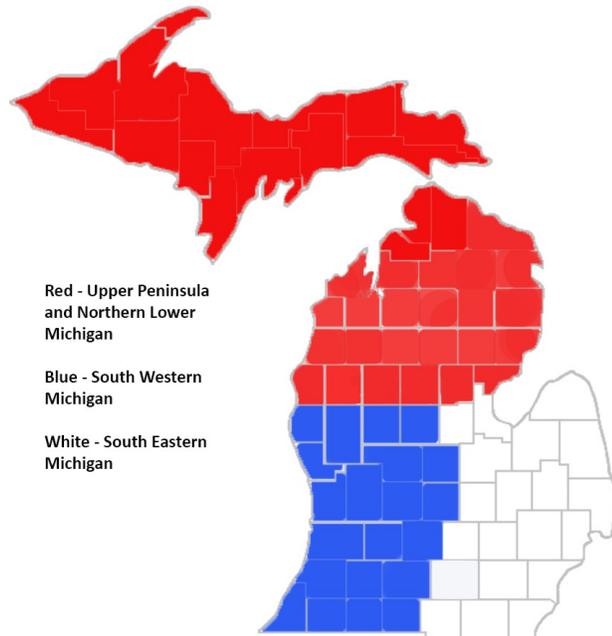
Class Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate box:

- Drinking Water      Operator ID \_\_\_\_\_
- Wastewater
- Precicensure Residential Builder
- Residential Maintenance & Alteration Contractor
- Landscape Architect
- Professional Surveyor
- Professional Engineer

Drinking Water and Wastewater are .3 CECs  
All others are 3 CECs

If you choose Drinking Water, you MUST provide your Operator ID #.



## *MIOSHA Rescinds COVID Emergency Orders*

As of Tuesday June 22, MIOSHA has rescinded their Emergency Orders pertaining to COVID-19. There will be no specific orders for the Construction Industry to follow for COVID-19.

The only exception will be any construction happening inside a working hospital, at which time construction employees will adhere to Federal healthcare standards. This comes after

almost 15 months of tireless efforts by employers to remain compliant and keep their workers safe from COVID-19. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MITA's Director of Safety and Compliance Greg Brooks by emailing him at [gregbrooks@thinkmita.org](mailto:gregbrooks@thinkmita.org) or call the MITA office: 517-347-8336.



## ***MISS DIG 811 & Social Media***

Don't miss out by not liking and following MISS DIG 811 on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn for weekly updates and valuable information. Share posts to spread the safe digging message and participate in monthly Facebook contests running through March 2022.

We have weekly baseball ticket giveaways for the Kalamazoo Growlers and Battle Creek Bombers for the 2021 summer season. In addition, MISS DIG 811 has monthly contests to win some great prizes:



### **Upcoming MISS DIG 811 Monthly Contests:**

July: Send your best BBQ recipe to win a picnic basket.

August: Submit your senior picture with the caption "Most likely to \_\_\_\_\_" to win a backpack of back-to-school supplies and MISS DIG 811 SWAG.

September: Send your best apple recipe. The winner will receive an orchard gift basket.

October: Tell your scariest story to win a gift card.

November: Submit your best use of Thanksgiving leftovers. The winner will receive a turkey.

December: Describe the best gift you ever gave to win a festive holiday wreath.

January: Submit a picture of the best snowman. The winner will receive a Stormy Kromer Hat.

February: Send your own best love poem. The winner will receive Valentine's Day Candy/Chocolate.

March: Submit a picture of your best homegrown flower to win a gift card to a nursery.

Stay in the loop by checking out our Facebook page. Remember you must like, follow, and share posts to qualify.

# Community Outreach



## Placing Emergency Locates

by Paul Harding

Last month, I discussed emergency tickets from the facility owner/operator's point of view. This month, let's flip the script and look at placing emergency locate requests.

As I write this on a sunny morning in mid-June, I see that there are already 139 emergency locates scheduled for today...and it's only 8am. Sixteen of those tickets are NOW emergencies with a crew on-site or crew en route. The other 123 were placed as scheduled emergencies, with starting times ranging from 7:00 AM all the way to 3 PM. As an excavator, it's important to remember that you can only schedule a NOW emergency when your crew is either on-site or en route, and facility owner/operators have 3 hours to post to Positive Response &/or mark their facilities. With a scheduled emergency, facility owner/operators have until the scheduled date & time of the dig to post to Positive Response &/or mark their facilities. So, what does that mean for the excavator? It means that if you put in an emergency for 8 AM tomorrow morning, you plan to start digging at 8am. The time you enter for a scheduled emergency isn't when you hope it will be located by; it's when you plan on beginning to excavate. If you don't think you'll be out there to start until 10 AM, put the starting time in at 10 AM.

However, as an excavator, it's very important to be certain that the work you are doing qualifies as an emergency before placing the ticket. I travel around the great state of Michigan talking to facility owners all year long. One of the most common complaints that I hear from them is having to respond to bogus emergency locates. What does constitute an emergency locate? Here's a definition:

***An EMERGENCY is defined as any work that requires locating and staking in less than 3 working days due to lack of facilities or possible hazard to health, life, or property.***

Some emergencies are obvious, like a water main break, gas leak or broken pole, but damaged communications lines are also considered emergencies. In fact, there are so many possibilities that there's no way to note them all here. The most important thing is to never call a job an emergency just to attempt to expedite the utility locating. Other issues that locators have with emergency requests is when the ticket is called in as a NOW emergency with the crew on-site or crew en route, and when they arrive on-site, nobody is there. Or, when it's a scheduled emergency, and locators mark the location, and then no work occurs for days.

It's also important as an excavator to check positive response to ensure that all of the facility owners on your dig notice have either marked the work location or posted to Positive Response. If they haven't by the Positive Response Due Date on your ticket, the MISS DIG System will auto-respond with a 999 (has not responded) code. For the excavator, that means that they are required by law to place a 2<sup>nd</sup> request for any facility owner code that hasn't yet responded.

So to review, the keys when placing an emergency ticket are straight-forward. First & foremost, it must be an actual emergency situation. Just as importantly, if it's a NOW emergency, your crew must be either en route or on-site. And if the request is a scheduled emergency, the date & time you schedule it for is when you plan to start digging, not when you want to have it located by!

**FREE, Would you like MISS DIG  
811 brochures and posters?**

Do you need some MISS DIG 811 brochures to refill the supply you were already given? Or if you have not received any, would you like some to make available or hand out to:

- Homeowners/Companies visiting your site
- Homeowners working outside their homes without contacting MISS DIG 811
- Companies working on a job site who have not followed MISS DIG 811 rules

Click on the MISS DIG 811 poster to order



**Contact your Community Outreach Team:**

Colleen Goddard [cgoddard@missdig811.org](mailto:cgoddard@missdig811.org) or at 906-789-3083

Paul Harding [pharding@missdig811.org](mailto:pharding@missdig811.org) or at 248-370-6426

**"Digging In" - MISS DIG 811 Podcast**



Tune in to each segment of "Digging-In", hosted by MISS DIG 811's Education Specialist Eric Urbain. The programs will center around a particular topic or feature interviews with industry professionals or various facility owners/operators regarding damage prevention. New episodes will follow bi-weekly on Monday's at 10am. If you would like to be a guest on MISS DIG 811's "Digging-In" podcast or have a topic you would like to hear more about, please contact Eric Urbain at:

[urbain@missdig811.org](mailto:urbain@missdig811.org)

Follow the link below for the "Digging-In" archive of podcasts:

<https://digging-in.simplecast.com/episodes/episode-1-miss-dig-811-50-years-ofdamageprevention>

**RTE Forums**

- Refresh your skills
- Join an RTE Forum Webinar
- Two RTE Forums held each month
- July topic: Scope of Work Guidelines for Signage

- RTE Forums- Tuesday, July 20th at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, July 21st at 1:00 PM

For more information or to register contact:

Web Ticket Department at:  
[webticketdept@missdig811.org](mailto:webticketdept@missdig811.org)



## ***The Educational Mobile Unit is on the Move in July!***



July 14th: MITA Metro Golf Outing

- Twin Lakes Golf Club, 455 Twin Lakes Drive, Oakland Township
- 8:00 AM Registration
- Contact: Danielle Coppersmith at [daniellcoppersmith@thinkmita.org](mailto:daniellcoppersmith@thinkmita.org) or call 517-347-8336

July 15th: Walker Concert

- Walker Community Park, 700 Cummings Avenue NW, Walker Mi
- 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
- Contact: Nicole DiDonato, Communication Manager at [ndidnato@walker.city](mailto:ndidnato@walker.city) or call 616-791-6893

The Education Mobile Unit (E.M.U.) was created to travel throughout the state to bring awareness to buried underground and submerged utilities. We travel upon request to schools, annual meetings, home improvement stores and shows, local neighborhoods and much, much more. Look for us in a neighborhood near you or contact us for a visit from the E.M.U. at [education@missdig811.org](mailto:education@missdig811.org) or call (248) 370-6424

**[MISS DIG 811 Municipal Website Info](#)**

