

In The Trenches

Protecting Facilities, Families and the Future
December Newsletter 2020



Know what's below.
Call **MISSDIG** at **811**
before you dig.



Season's Greetings



SAVING TIME ONLINE WITH E-SUITE

MISS DIG 811 e-Suite e-Locate e-Nearby e-OHA e-Plan e-Response

Safe Digging Starts Here
Michigan's *free & easy* utility notification system.



e-Locate
Request Underground Utility markings at a single address for an upcoming excavation project in the next 14 days.

[Start](#)



e-Nearby
Find nearby tickets using a ticket number, address or GPS location.

[Start](#)



e-OHA
Request Overhead Ticket Assistance at a single address for an upcoming excavation project in the next 14 days.

[Start](#)



e-Plan
Request Underground Utility information at a single address for the purpose of planning a future excavation project. You CANNOT excavate with this type of ticket.

[Start](#)



e-Response
Check the status of your existing locate request before you begin excavations.

[Start](#)


Web Ticket Support: [www.missdig.com](#) or (800) 862-7171
The contents of this webpage are © MISS DIG Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

by Brianna Kirby

The dig season in Michigan that takes place during the spring and summer months is brief, but hectic. There isn't much time to schedule and complete all excavation projects before winter sets in. This year is even more compressed due to the onset of COVID-19, which has caused delays which could result in the temptation of taking shortcuts. With shortcuts, the utility industry sees an increase in the number of damages to overhead and underground infrastructure, which can result in injury or worse. Surprisingly, large numbers of damages happen with laying sidewalks or staking tents.

One of the ways MISS DIG 811 has assisted during these trying times is through the creation of a collection of online tools called "e-Suite." People may not have the time to wait 30 minutes or more to place a ticket over the phone and thanks to the convenient e-Suite tools, excavators can save time while still following the law. There are several features of e-Suite available 24/7. These services are available at newtin.missdig.org/e-suite free of charge and do not require an account. Our education team has developed step-by-step instructions for use available on the MISS DIG 811 website at missdig.org/education/e-suite-information.html.

- e-Locate is a non-emergency dig notice placed online for single addresses. It can be placed at least three business days, but no more than 14 calendar days, in advance.
- e-OHA is an online overhead assistance request when no digging is required. A request is placed when overhead line clearance cannot be maintained at a single address. After placing an e-OHA, the excavator is contacted by a representative from MISS DIG 811 to schedule a meeting with the electric company.
- e-Plan is a design ticket for determining the specifics of a project at a single address. Facility owners are required to respond within 10 business days to provide blueprints, records, or drawings for the proposed address. This cannot be used as a dig notice.
- e-Nearby displays ticket information for work being done close to your area that can be searched by ticket number, address, intersection, and GPS location. Homeowners and businesses use this tool to find out why flags are located on their property? However, they cannot "piggyback" off an existing ticket already in place for the work site.
- e-Response is a tool to access Positive Response, which shows the status of your dig notice and can be checked by ticket number any time after the date and time the ticket legally clears. The locators' responses are color coded RED (DO NOT DIG), YELLOW (TALK TO THE FACILITY OWNER/OPERATOR FIRST), and GREEN (DIG SAFELY). The GREEN responses are either MARKED or NO CONFLICT.



In Michigan, placing tickets and checking Positive Response before excavating is required by Public Act 174. The e-Suite's 24/7 availability gives people the ability to place tickets, check Positive Response, and more according to their own schedule. These services help people save time with their excavation projects, follow the law, and be safe.

In addition to e-Suite, MISS DIG 811 will be using new technology for education and safety promotions. This includes a weekly podcast with various topics and interviews, as well as a videocast. MISS DIG 811's first "Digging In" podcast was released to the

public in October. New episodes are available every Monday after 10:00 a.m. on a variety of platforms. Check it out: <https://digging-in.simplecast.com>. It's exciting to see MISS DIG 811 make more resources available to the public!

Brianna Kirby is Education Coordinator with MISS DIG 811. She can be reached at bkirby@missdig811.org

December 21, Winter Solstice

Winter Solstice marks the beginning of winter and is the shortest day of the year. On this day, it seems as if the nighttime darkness lasts all day and all night. It is not the coldest days of winter, as the northern hemisphere continues to lose more heat than it gains. This will continue until late in winter, as the longer daylight hours at that point begin to have a net warming affect. But for now, heat up a cup of hot chocolate and put another log on the fire! Winter will be here for a while.



For thousands of years, Winter Solstice has celebrated the new solar year. It celebrates the return of the sun, as every day now will see more sun. The sun is at it's southernmost point, and now begins it's long, six month journey north.

MISS DIG 811 Wants Everybody to Stay Safe

Like you or most of you, MISS DIG 811 has been working from home every day since the fight against COVID -19 began . We hope that those of you servicing essential Critical Infrastructure needs are safe and healthy. We hope that this once again passes soon, but we are committed to doing our part to minimize the effects and spread of COVID-19. Stay in, stay safe, and if you have to go out keep your distance!



MISS DIG 811 will continue to monitor the situation closely and work with our members to meet their needs. Please contact Member Support at membersupport@missdig811.org or visit our web page at members.missdig.org for updated information regarding what we are working on to better serve you!

RTE Forums

- There are no RTE Forums scheduled for the month of December

For more information contact Sandy Gunville at sgunville@missdig811.org or Patty Preston at pattyp@missdig811.org



The MISS DIG 811 Status Update Meeting

The MISS DIG 811 Status Update started as a COVID 19 response weekly review and has grown into an update on MISS DIG 811 locate request demands, including a week-over-week and year-over-year comparison. We also discuss locating issues, damage issues, and it is an opportunity to discuss any pressing issues that may come up. As COVID concerns increase we will also address them as they affect MISS DIG 811 and our members.



The "off season" schedule (December, January, and February) will meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 10:00 AM and return to weekly meetings with the first Monday in March.

To be added to the invite list contact MISS DIG 811 CEO/COO Bruce Campbell at: bcampbell@missdig811.org

"Digging In" - MISS DIG 811 Podcast



MISS DIG 811 is excited to announce a new platform for information, education, and damage prevention! MISS DIG 811 released their first "Digging In" podcast episode on October 12th. 6 other podcast episodes have been released and check for new episodes in the future.

Tune in to each segment, hosted by Eric Urbain, MISS DIG 811 Education Specialist. The programs will center around a particular topic or feature interviews with industry professionals or various facility owners/operators

regarding damage prevention.

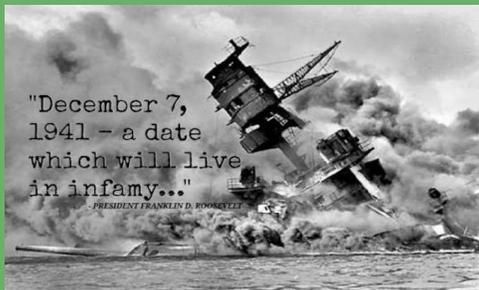
The podcast will be available on the platforms below for your educational and listening enjoyment.

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

The podcast can be embedded into Medium, WordPress, and Twitter and played from there.



History in December

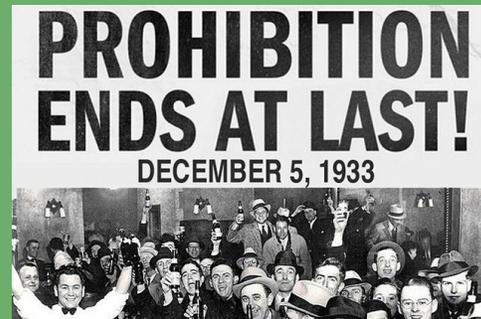


December 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor Day, commemorates the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor. The attack began at dawn December 7, 1941. It crippled the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and caused the U.S. to enter World War II.

During the attack at Pearl Harbor, over 2,400 American servicemen and 68 civilians were killed. Five of the eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, and virtually all ships were damaged.

On December 8, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a speech to Congress it was "...a day that will live in infamy". The U.S. then declared war on Japan.



December 5, 1933

Repeal Day commemorates the repeal of the 18th Amendment. Once more, Americans were free to buy, sell, and consume alcoholic beverages. I'll drink to that! The United States Congress passed the 18th amendment on January 18, 1919. The 18th Amendment prohibited the manufacture, transportation, sale and consumption of alcohol.

Congress passed the 21st Amendment on December 5, 1933, effectively repealing the 18th Amendment.

Important Note: While *Repeal Day* certainly is a day to have a drink in celebration of our rights and freedoms, we should always remember to drink

Are You MISS DIG 811 Certified? Or, has your certification expired and you need to update it?

MISS DIG 811 has several options available for you and/or your employees to get certified:

- Webinar (virtual instructor-led)
- Online
- Workshops/Seminar (live instructor led)

MISS DIG 811 offers weekly Safe Excavation Practices Certification Webinars for your convenience virtually featuring a live instructor. The webinars take place:

- Every Wednesday
- From 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

If you are new to MISS DIG 811 training, please create an account in SkillBuilder, MISS DIG 811's learning management system. If you already have an account, simply log in and go to Your Learning Plan. Click on the appropriate orange tile to get started. Do not create a duplicate account. If you do not remember your account login credentials, please contact Linda Portelli at 248-370- 6441 or by email at lportelli@missdig811.org.



Download Webinar
Registration Instructions

Log into Skillbuilder

Download Online
Instructions

