

The VUPS DIRT

June 2011

Virginia Utility Protection Service

"Working as one to get the job done, we keep Virginia safe!"

S&N's Safety Day at VUPS A Success

S&N Communications provided the VUPS staff and Roanoke-area stakeholders with a great learning experience on May 20. S & N brought a variety of personnel and equipment to educate others on communications facilities, natural gas installations and utility locating practices. Displays included:

- Directional drill
- Power line truck (pole installation truck)
- Electric power equipment
- Fiber optic cable
- Communications boxes and terminals
- Gas equipment
- Utility locating equipment
- Demonstrations of pre-marking of proposed excavation

S & N staff answered questions at each of the stations about the work they do.



Sidney Tolley of S&N Communications demonstrates cables

If that was not enough, they catered, too! The company provided lunch for attendees, which easily topped 100 persons. Company President Allen Powell manned the grill and prepared some of the best barbeque to be found! Representatives from Atmos Energy, Roanoke Gas, Consolidated Utility Services, Western Virginia Water Authority, and the SCC also attended.



Transportation chief promotes Safe Digging

A highlight of National Safe Digging Month in April was a visit by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to a Skanska construction site in Arlington. LaHood was shown how the process works, by first calling 811 and then seeing a demonstration by Juan Vogle of UtiliQuest of how utilities are located and marked. Scott Brown of Washington Gas represented Virginia utilities at the event, which was sponsored by the Association of General Contractors and the Common Ground Alliance.

Where to find VUPS



va811



missutilofva

From the desk of the CEO



During the second quarter of 2011, VUPS had the opportunity to be involved in several unique public awareness opportunities that are highlighted in this edition of the VUPS Dirt.

S&N Communications provided excellent training for VUPS' DPS staff during the S&N Safety Day held at our Blue Hills facility. We are very appreciative to S&N for all of their efforts in creating this event.

VUPS along with the following Roanoke area damage prevention stakeholders designed and built a float for the Vinton Dogwood Festival: S&N Communications, Cox Communications, Atmos Energy, Western Virginia Water Authority and Roanoke Gas. We received very positive feedback from the attendees at the festival. The trailer for the float is on loan from Atmos Energy. If you see an opportunity in your area to utilize the float please contact Steve Light or any member of VUPS' Public Awareness Team.

April was National Safe Digging month. Virginia was able to participate with a signed proclamation from Gov. Bob McDonnell. During April, Virginia hosted a damage prevention awareness event with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood. Our own Scott Brown, with Washington Gas, represented Virginia.

As the summer digging season begins, I would like to remind everyone to Dig With CARE, Keep Virginia Safe!!

-Rick Pevarski

Software program will streamline Miss U Ticket system

How would you like to be able to schedule your Miss Utility Tickets just like you do your utility payments? Soon excavators will have that option through our new Excavator Work Order System.

The IT department is putting the final touches on a program that will allow excavators to manage their crews, projects and Miss Utility tickets. This program also has benefits to the locators by helping to normalize their work flow.

The design of this innovative software by VUPS is being made possible through a grant from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). If you are an excavator interested in taking advantage of this new management tool, please call 811 and follow the prompts for the Help Desk.

5th Graders Prove They Are Smart Diggers

Luckily we didn't have to find out if we were smarter than students at Roanoke Valley Christian School. For National Safe Digging Month, VUPS provided a kid-friendly Dig with C.A.R.E. presentation to 2nd through 4th grade students. The students learned the American Public Works Association (APWA) color code and what each color represented. Also, they were able to apply what they learned by making a pretend call to VUPS for the installation of a lamppost in front of the VUPS schoolhouse.

A student placed a white circle on a plexiglass display to show where the lamppost would be installed. After the mock call, two students pretended to be utility locators and placed locate marks on the display. After all of the locate marks were placed, the caller realized that the marks were in the way of her project. She pretended to carefully hand dig a small hole for her lamp post.

After the Dig with C.A.R.E. message was delivered, the students were able to win prizes by asking and answering questions. A huge thanks to Steve Duncan for constructing the VUPS schoolhouse display.

OPERATIONS



Lorraine Lawrence with VUPS CEO Rick Pevarski

Lawrence Selected as Employee of the Quarter

Lorraine Lawrence, Employee of the Quarter for First Quarter 2011, joined VUPS as a Damage Prevention Specialist in February 2006. The persons nominating her said she “did a great job as a parallel partner for the new VUPS employees.” On her own time, she highlighted every county on a Virginia State map and included helpful tips to give new employees an easy reference at their workstations.

A vice president of a Virginia utility also complimented Lorraine when calling in a ticket for his own property. During the call, he did not reveal his identity, but he said Lorraine did an excellent job. “She was thorough, flawless, explaining everything in an accurate and adequate manner.”

Congratulations to Lorraine as Employee of the First Quarter 2011.



Parading for Public Awareness Efforts

In partnership with Roanoke and New River Valley stakeholders, VUPS sponsored a float in the 2011 Vinton Dogwood Festival Parade April 30. An estimated 15,000 persons attended.

The VUPS float was set up in three stations and done in a way that would emphasize Virginia’s Dig with C.A.R.E mes-

sage. The first station featured a person at a desk, calling 811 before digging. In the middle, a locator from S & N Locating simulated finding and marking underground utility lines.

The final station had a person ready to plant a tree and flowers, respecting the marks and digging carefully.

INDUSTRY FOCUS

Students Practice Safety at Utility Rodeo

A beautiful 70-degree day with sunny skies was the backdrop for a successful heavy equipment utility rodeo at the Pruden Center in Suffolk. With three event stations, 20 nervous students and lots of family members, excitement was in the air. Proud parents snapped photos and cheered as students completed each event.

In one event, each student maneuvered a backhoe through an obstacle course and raced to fill a dump truck. In another, they tested their dexterity by moving a metal pin from a one and a half inch PVC pipe into another with a chain attached to the bucket of a backhoe. For the final event, the backhoe push and pull, students repositioned the backhoe using the boom and stick controls until they reached a certain distance.

Although the students appeared to have lots of fun, the focus of the event was safety, safety, safety! At the beginning of each student's turn, the student was reminded to operate the equipment safely. If the students drove too quickly, ran over cones or dropped gravel, additional time was tacked on to their base time. Even with those restrictions, the winning times were 59



Student maneuvers backhoe in competition

seconds (pin placement), one minute and 40 seconds (obstacle course) and two minutes and nine seconds (push/pull).

After the rodeo, medals were given out at a luncheon catered by the Pruden Center Culinary Arts students.

The event was covered by the local media and several municipalities were on hand to check out potential new hires.

Holly Hill Road project teaches students building skills

As a part of National Safe Digging Month, the Henrico County Vocational/Technical Foundation Inc. invited local stakeholders to be a part of the groundbreaking for house building project #16.

This Foundation is a part of the Henrico County Public School System. Students build homes from the ground up, including the design, carpentry, masonry, electrical and landscaping. Each project takes about two years, and the profit from the sale of the home is put back into the Foundation for the next home building project.

House #16 is on Holly Hill Road in Henrico County behind Douglas Freeman High School. With a ticket called in, the utility locators for Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon, City of Richmond (gas) and Henrico County Department of Public Utilities shared their expertise. The locators explained what the utility locate marks mean. One of the utility locators demonstrated how he connects to the utility, finds the signal and applies the paint.

After the locators finished explaining the utility marks, the students started a horticulture lesson with a local nursery. They were taught how to properly install Leyland cypress and Dogwood trees along the back of the property. Over the next two years, VUPS will provide updates on the progress of Holly Hill Road.