

Courses Aim to Increase Safety, Prevent Damage

Using an 8,000-volt power line model complete with a downtown backdrop, poles and named figures such as Lightning Lizzie, Don Coe of WE Energies (*right*), donned protective equipment to demonstrate how electrical current flows from the power plant to meter as part of his short course on Electric System Basics during the 2007 World of Training held June 26-27 in Manteno, IL.

Short courses at World of Training offered utility cross-training that enabled the attendees to learn about buried facilities other than the industry in which they work. Courses included basics on natural gas systems, electric systems, telecommunication systems, liquid pipelines and water and sewer systems. In addition, courses covered the installation and maintenance of these systems and the hidden dangers of digging near these systems.

Courses included interactive displays and presentations as well as hands-on learning opportunities. Two short courses focused on specific locating challenges including fault detection presented by Merrill Haddon of Aqua-Tronics and Sewer Lateral Locating presented by Mark Fleming of Ridge Tools.

“Anytime you can learn something new, it is a good thing,” said Kyle Cummings with Buckeye Partners, LP. “It allows you to think more about what you are doing (on the jobsite).”

A presentation by Bill Balin, Vice President of The Pipeline Group, showed the dangers of damages to pipelines through a PowerPoint presentation complete with graphic photos of an explosion and discussion of how first responders and those working near pipelines should respond in the event of a damage. The Pipeline Group is a for-profit business created to provide an all encompassing program that pipeline, energy, and hazardous materials companies may utilize to fulfill their DOT requirements.

Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in one of eight workshops covering topics such as ground penetrating radar, locator certification, excavation for the competent person, confined space entry and pre-emptive



strategies for contractors. These workshops included classroom instruction as well as field work in the real life setting at The Planet Underground.

With locating instruments in hand, Bud Jolly, Senior Instructor and Director of Training for Staking University, led his group of 15 students through various situations as they located water, gas, telecommunication and electric lines.

John Rahilly, Senior Instructor for Chicago-Land Construction Safety Council, discussed the OSHA competent person requirements for excavations. His discussions covered soil analysis, choosing protective equipment and general jobsite hazard awareness. Through the use of audio-visual presentations, on-site demonstrations and assistance from staff of JULIE, Inc. (the Illinois One-Call), Rahilly led his students through a comprehensive course that in the end led to certification for those who passed the written exam.

Dennis Prezbindowski, principal geophysicist at 4-D Consulting in Indianapolis, provided an introduction of ground penetrating radar for the use of locating and characterizing subsurface utilities to his group of students.

He allowed each manufacturer at the show to demonstrate the various features of their machines as the students tested them on-site throughout the eight hour course.

“The GPR course was well done and explained in a way that was understandable,” said Brent Coombs, training specialist for Global Training Centre, who is looking to begin providing GPR training to their clients and will use the knowledge they gained at World of Training as part of their curriculum.

Attendees also had the opportunity to Dig Big using compact and heavy equipment on display at working dig sites on the event grounds. Demonstrations took place throughout the two days including a trench rescue, confined space rescue, electric line repair and side-by-side trench comparison.

Mr. Manhole showed how in five minutes with their skid loader mounted auger driven tool they could cut through asphalt and concrete to remove a manhole casting and road overcut and rebuild the chimney section of a manhole perfectly level with the slope of the road without manual labor. **UF**

WORLD OF TRAINING

THE WAY THINGS WORK

