

Underground Connection

Underground Technology is an invocative new way of offering training to prospective employees of the underground world. Training will include safety with underground damage prevention technologies in locating pipe and wire facilities and verifying public utility locates before you dig...Class is held on the campus of North Central Kansas Technical College, Beloit, KS.

SAFETY TOPICS:

Tracking-Hazards while directional drilling.

Potential Hazards:

- **Struck by-moving vehicles/objects**
- **Drawn into-rotating/hydraulic tools**
- **Buried hazards-open trench**

Precautions

- ALWAYS track drilling progress.
- Do not stand over drill string unless stopped.
- Locate drill head after each pipe.
- Never push broken pipe.
- Never assume drill string will follow a pre-drilled path.
- If crossing a known utility, expose the line and watch as you cross both ways.
- When drill head surfaces, use tracker control to disable thrust and rotation.
- Stay away from material being installed. If swivel binds, material rotates.
- Shut off drill string thrust and rotation when breaking joints at exit pit.
- Never use a pipe wrench to break joints loose or tighten joints.

Information/Facts

- Buried utilities are never marked for depth. The depth may vary throughout the utility length.
- A broken drill string being pushed can create a new path.
- If an electric strike occurs the ground may be electrified. Under certain circumstances, the earth can explode where the strike occurs.
- Rotating drill heads and backreamers can “walk” and exposed drill string sideways.
- If the swivel malfunctions or there is a lack of adequate tension on the string, material being installed can rotate.

Driller says, “It’s important to follow all safe operation precautions found in the Ditch Witch® Operator Manual for at the worksite.”



Class enrollment for our next class may be accessed at:

www.undergroundtech.com

ACTIVITIES:

Tom Tiber, Baroid trainer was on hand at the recent Horizontal Directional Drilling class to present proper techniques while mixing and adding fluid additives. “Drilling fluids are meant to avoid problems, not intended to solve created problems!” Tom said with a sincere tone...



Photo 1: l to r Chase Weidenhaft, NCKTC; Brian Grim, Ditch Witch®; Tom Tiber, Baroid Fluids, Joshua Mead, NCKTC, Eric Burks, Dean of Instruction, NCKTC.