

# NEWS NEWS

Summer Issue 2015

## Safe Digging Practices & What the Colors Mean

The month of April marked the Common Ground Alliance's National Safe Digging Month. This is a time when utilities try to come together to communicate how important it is for professionals, as well as homeowners', to use safe-digging practices in order to prevent injury, property damage, and inconvenient outages.

Before any digging project, one should call 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging, and the call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing, and the local member utilities affected will be notified about your intent to dig. The utility will send an employee to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below - and be able to dig safely.

After calling 811, you will receive a confirmation number which you should retain. Once the utility has visited the site, you may notice different colored spray paint or flags on the street, the sidewalk, or on the right-of-way. Multi-colored lines, arrows, circles, flags-you may be confused as to what they all mean. The APWA color coding system was first implemented in California after construction workers accidentally cut through a petroleum pipeline in 1976, resulting in a fatal explosion that destroyed half a city block. To prevent future incidents, a code was established and is recommended by most national agencies. In the state of Kentucky, the safe-digging code is not just a recommendation, it is required by law. Anyone planning to dig is required by law to call 811 and have utility lines marked before you dig.

The image to the right can help you decode the markings from utility location and the information you will need when making your call to 811. For your convenience, you can now fill out location tickets online at [www.kentucky811.org](http://www.kentucky811.org).

More information on safe digging practices can be found at [www.kentucky811.org](http://www.kentucky811.org).



**APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE**

	ELECTRIC
	GAS-OIL-STEAM
	TELEPHONE-CATV
	WATER
	SEWER
	RECLAIMED WATER
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

In Kentucky, Call 811 or 800-752-6007  
Two Business Days Before You Dig  
[www.kentucky811.org](http://www.kentucky811.org)

**REQUIRED INFORMATION WHEN CALLING**

CITY  
COUNTY  
STREET ADDRESS  
CROSS STREET  
TYPE OF WORK  
NAME OF CALLER  
TITLE  
TELEPHONE  
START DATE  
START TIME  
CONTRACTOR  
CONTRACTOR ADDRESS  
CONTRACTOR TELEPHONE

  
**CALL 811**  
 OR  
**800-752-6007**  
**Two Business Days Before You Dig**  
[www.kentucky811.org](http://www.kentucky811.org)



**Mayfield Electric &  
Water Systems**

**Contacts:**

**270-247-4661**

**www.mayfieldews.com**

**301 E Broadway  
Mayfield, KY 42066**

**OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday thru Friday  
7:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

**Mayfield Electric &  
Water Systems'**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Wesley K. Greer**  
Chairperson

**Chris Kendrick**  
Vice Chairperson

**Nancy Barger**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Jana Adams**  
Council Representative

**Tim Choate**  
Member

**Sam Boyd Neely, Jr.**  
Attorney

The electric plant board is made up of progressive community leaders and directs the management of MEWS. The plant board consists of 5 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

# *In The Community:* **Drinking Water Week 2015**

May 4th through the 8th was celebrated nationally as Drinking Water Week. During this week, MEWS worked to bring awareness to the vital role that water plays in our daily lives. To help celebrate National Drinking Water Week 2015, MEWS hosted a community-wide grilled hamburger/hotdog lunch on Wednesday, May 6th and provided opportunities to win water-related prizes. MEWS alternates our Customer Appreciation gatherings annually between Public Power Week in October and Drinking Water Week in May. All MEWS customers were invited to attend.

## **Safe-Digging Month/Arbor Day**

MEWS hosted a tree-planting event at Mayfield Middle School in support of Safe-Digging Month and Arbor Day. A safe-digging presentation preceded the planting to educate students on the importance of planting trees away from power lines and underground utilities.

Mrs. Burgess' Science Enrichment class assisted in the tree planting by determining a location to plant the tree after having the underground and over-head utility lines marked.



## **Reality Zone 2015: MMS**



As part of a Business-Education Partnership, every year in March Mayfield Electric & Water Systems chooses to participate in *Reality Zone*. This program is demonstrated at both Mayfield and Graves County Middle Schools and is designed to provide students with a "reality check" at how much things cost in the real world. It is a game of *Life* for the young students.

Before the students enter the *Reality Zone*, they are assigned a gross income, marital status and children by their teachers. Armed with this information, the students begin their "real lives" having to purchase groceries, pay a mortgage, buy insurance and of course pay their utility bills with their assigned incomes.

The *Reality Zone* is staffed with local businesses who "sell" their products and services to the students. Mayfield Electric & Water Systems' Mary Beth Paschall was proud to be a part of such a wonderful program that helps to strengthen and mold today's youth.

## **Strickly Business @ MHS**

Mayfield Electric & Water Systems was excited to participate in Mayfield High School's *Strickly Business* program. Customer Operations & Energy Services Manager, Brent Shultz, attended the program where he interviewed and answered questions from MHS seniors looking to enter the field of Environmental Engineering or Occupational Safety & Health (OSH). MEWS takes pride in helping our community and assisting the local schools in preparing our community's youth for the future.



# What To Do If You Have A Sewer Problem

MEWS recommends all property owners have a wastewater cleanout accessible as close to the curb as possible. If your property does not have one, MEWS recommends you have one installed by a local plumber. If you have a cleanout on your property it is your responsibility to prevent damage to it and make sure that it is sealed with the proper plug or cap.

It is recommended that all property owners have a backwater valve/backflow preventer. This could protect your property from damage if a large rain event occurs or a main-line failure.

MEWS is ALWAYS willing to inspect and utilize the cleanouts to help the property owner identify and resolve a problem; however, MEWS is not able to perform work on the homeowner's property (sewer lines, cleanouts, basement drains, backwater valves, etc.).

According to the City of Mayfield's Sewer Use Ordinance 1-91, "roof downspouts, exterior fountain drains, areaway drains, basement drains or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater" are all improper connections to the sewer system. MEWS will, at no charge, evaluate existing connections such as these and make recommendations to help the property owner remove them.

If you are experiencing sewer problems, call MEWS' Main Office at 270-247-4661 during our regular business hours and a representative will respond to correct the problem or recommend a course of action. If you experience problems after hours, or on a weekend or holiday, you may still call our office, and a representative will respond to evaluate the problem. If the problem is the responsibility of MEWS, there will be no charge for the after-hours call. If the problem is the responsibility of the property-owner there could be an after-hours minimum charge of \$75.00.

## MEWS Wins 1st Place National Safety Award

Mayfield Electric & Water Systems has earned the American Public Power Association's **Safety Award of Excellence** for safe operating practices in 2014. MEWS has previously won this award in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and now 2014. This first place award is in the category for utilities with 30,000 to 59,999 worker-hours of annual worker exposure. Kenneth Roberts, chair of the APPA Safety Committee and line supervisor, Huntsville, Alabama, Utilities, presented the award on May 18, during the association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Sacramento, California.

"Working day-in and day-out with the power of electricity is not something we take lightly. We can't afford to," said Roberts. "The recipients of this award understand the essential nature of safety in our line of work. It's embedded in their work culture."

More than 290 utilities entered the annual contest, which is the highest number of entrants in the history of the program. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker hours and judged for the most incident-free records during 2014. The incidence rate used to judge contest entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2014, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"We at Mayfield Electric & Water Systems are proud of the service we provide to our customers," said Marty Ivy, General Superintendent of MEWS. "But above all else, we are proud of our safety record—proud that we do everything we can to send our people home to their families each and every night."

The Safety Awards have been held annually for the last 55 years. APPA is the national organization representing more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community- and state- owned electric utilities.



Pictured from Left to Right: Ryan Cates, Chris Cope, Darren Stewart, Brent Tucker, Jason Kendall, Doug Gipson, Dusty Qualls and the MEWS Electrical Operations Manager, Jason Weatherly.

# Please Use Caution

Mayfield Electric & Water Systems and Graves County Water District have upgraded every water meter within their service areas to the new Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) metering system. The new Sensus water meters provide our customers with innovative equipment that allows for daily consumption monitoring through [www.myusage.com](http://www.myusage.com), early leak detection, more accurate meter reading, and minute-by-minute usage recording to help you track your water consumption and potentially save money.



The meters have a black, plastic antenna/transmitter that is attached through and setting on top of the water meter lid (pictured top-right). This piece of equipment transmits your consumption wirelessly to MEWS. **We respectfully ask that you please use caution when mowing or working near your water meter** as not to damage or destroy the antenna. If it becomes inoperable, your readings will temporarily stop transmitting to our office and an MEWS employee will have to replace the equipment. MEWS and GCWD strive to provide our customers with the best possible equipment and service at the most affordable price. The replacement of damaged equipment is very costly. In order to sustain low-level rates, we ask you to please mow **around** your water meter, not over it, and we encourage you to call MEWS if the antenna has been damaged at 270-247-4661. Thank you!



**Report Power Outages,  
Water, or Sewer Problems to:**

**270-247-4661**

**After hours call:**

**270-247-3531**

## *Employee Service Anniversaries* *April thru September*

Marty Ivy	25
Brian Womble	24
Kevin McCormack	18
Dusty Qualls	17
Kevin Leonard	16
Jeff Kelley	14
Belva Wilkerson	14
Chris Cope	14
Todd Whitis	13
Eddie Feagin	13
Jason Kendall	12
Van Allen	11
Todd Thurston	11
Russ Gills	8
Jason Tubbs	7
Miranda Evans	6
Ryan Yancey	5

## **OFFICE CLOSINGS:**

**Memorial Day—May 25, 2015**

**Independence Day—July 4, 2015**

**Labor Day—September 7, 2015**

