

September 21, 2023

# Evolution of a Public Safety/Awareness Program

Jim Santora Jr. – Supervisor, New Business & Outreach

## **About the Presenter**

## **Exelon Employee for 33 years:**

- Customer Service Rep (Atlantic City Electric)
- District Service Rep New Business (Atlantic City Electric)
- DB2 Analyst (Conectiv)
- Training Specialist (Pepco Holdings)
- Applications Business Analyst Mobile Dispatch & Outage Management (Pepco Holdings)
- Business Analyst IT (Exelon Business Services BSC)
- Sr. Business Program Manager (Delmarva Power Gas)
- Supervisor, New Business & Outreach (Delmarva Power Gas)

#### **Outside the Office:**

- Married (Jennifer) with 2 Dogs (Maddie, Penny)
- Two Children: Joshua (26) and Abbie (22)
- Music Fan with Extensive CD Collection
- Author of Underrated Rock Book and Underrated Rock Book Too!
- Lead Singer of a band that was an opening act for Tesla
- Enjoy Bowling, Golf and Strat-O-Matic Games









#### **About Delmarva Power**

- An Exelon Company
- Part of Pepco Holdings Inc (PHI) –
   Delmarva Power, Atlantic City Electric and Pepco
- The only PHI Utility that has a Gas Division
- The smallest Gas Division of the Exelon Companies (BGE, PECO)
- Main Headquarters Wilmington DE
- Total Employees 140
- Territory is in New Castle County DE
- Over 139,000 Customers
- Approx 2,209 Miles of Gas Main
- New Castle County LNG Plant

That's Me!





#### **DPL Gas Public Awareness**

- DPL-Gas has maintained a Public Awareness program since 2005
- Prior to 2005, any awareness was handled by Corporate Communications
- Dedicated person responsible for all materials, reviews and coordination with Corp Comm, Marketing, External/Government Affairs and Gas Management team

## **Day 1 - February 24, 2020**

## What Do I Do?

My transition into the Sr. Business Program Manager role at DPL was:

- A three-hour meeting
- A word document
- An Excel spreadsheet



How Do I Do It?

**Day 18 – March 12, 2020** 

### **COVID -19:**

- Pack up your things
- · Work from home



## Gas Safety/Public Awareness - 2020

This Is Where We Started... But Can We Do More?



If the Delmarva Power Gas ir at 302-454-0317.

#### NEORMATION AROUT

n for additional information

ty and reliability of our gas we have developed a rall 302-429-3099

tes pipelines, including a tes pipelines, including a lifies pipeline operators in be found on the Department National Pipeline Mapping ms.phmsa.dot.gov.

to dig in Delaware to notify Utility of Delmarva at least two ing days before digging so that companies can identify and





#### JTION: SEWER LATERAL REPAIR

iquire with the property owner, occupant or ailding maintenance to determine: The location of the sewer facilities such as clean outs, and If there has been any recent excavation to install If there has been any recent excaration to instant utility lines – in some case the line may have bee bored through years earlier with symptoms only recently coming to light

ckage within the sewer lateral before trying to

Do not attempt to clear the blockage with a





Hand dig in the area where the blockage or the

Immediately plug the sewer, if practical

- Notify any occupants of the building to evacuate the building immediately
- Once outside, remove nearby manholes, if possible

(a) Phone: 811 or 800-282-8555



## **NATURAL GAS SAFETY**

IT SMELLS BAD FOR A GOOD REASON SI HUELE MAL ES POR UNA BUENA RAZÓN

For Natural Gas Emergencies Call Para reportar emergencias en caso de una fuga de gas natural

302-454-0317



#### **IMPORTANT NATURAL GAS SAFETY INFORMATION**

#### Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. If you have natural gas in your home or business, you should consider installing CO detectors to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

A blocked chimney or flue on a natural gas furnace could result in carbon monoxide poisoning. Blockages can be caused by either mortar that has fallen down the chimney's inner walls or other debris that has fallen down the chimney, such as leaves and bricks. Check your chimney for blockages annually and have it cleaned by a qualified contractor if necessary. Also, a contractor can ensure that your fuel-burning appliances and piping are properly ventilated to the outside.

Often, there is little time before poisoned victims experience symptoms that limit their ability to seek help. Some of the symptoms include: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, loss of hearing, blurry vision, vomiting, seizures, unconsciousness, respiratory failure and cardiac arrest. If you suspect CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Be sure to call for help before helping others.

#### Winter Natural Gas Safety

The warmest place during a snowstorm certainly may be indoors, but don't forget to venture out to take care of utility equipment to ensure safe and proper operation.

Be sure outside vents from direct-vent appliances (such



#### Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) is a flexible, stainless steel pipe used to supply natural gas in residential, commercial and industrial structures. CSST is often coated with a yellow or black exterior plastic coating.

If you have CSST in your home or business after the gas meter, we recommend that you contact a licensed electrician to ensure piping after the gas meter is bonded and grounded properly. Delmarva Power does not provide an inspection service for CSST installations. If you are unsure if your property contains CSST, contact a qualified contractor to obtain a professional inspection.

#### **Gas Appliance Connectors**

Gas appliance connectors are corrugated metal tubes used to connect gas appliances to fuel supply pipes. To avoid unsafe conditions, replace corroded, damaged, kinked or uncoated brass connectors. We recommend replacing with a flexible connector that has a built in excess flow valve.

Stay safe by following these tips to prevent a hot water



## **Objectives and Timelines 2020**

- Support All Public Awareness Activities For Gas Per Exelon Management Model
- Jan/Feb: First Responder Beware Brochure (Work with External Affairs Manager)
- Feb/Mar: Elected Officials Mailer (Scratch N Sniff, Stay Safe Around Natural Gas, Letter Work with Government Affairs Manager)
- March: Stay Safe Around Natural Gas Bill Print Mailer (Work with Corporate Communications)
- April: Contractor Beware Mailer (Work with Culver)
- July: Crossbore Mailer (Sent to Small Group, Licensed Plumbers and Sewage Specialists that did not receive Contractor Beware)
- August: Scratch & Sniff Bill Print (Work with Corporate Communications)
- September: Stay Safe Around Natural Gas Bill Print (Work with Corporate Communications)
- October: Important Safety Information For Gas Customers AEGIS (Work with Corporate Communications)
- October: Scratch & Sniff, Stay Safe Around Natural Gas Mailer (Sent to all Paperless Customers, City of Newark, City of New Castle and homes within ¼ mile from transmission pipeline)
- November: Scratch & Sniff, Stay Safe Around Natural Gas, Letter (Private Service Customers)
- Educational Outreach Program NEF

## Objectives and Timelines 2021 to 2023: What Changed?

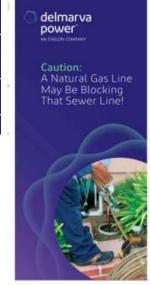
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- March: Stay Safe Around Natural Gas Bill Print Mailer (Work with PHI Marketing)
- April: Contractor Beware Mailer (PHI Damage Prevention Takes Over This Outreach, DPL-Gas Still plays part in reviewing materials as it relates to Gas)
- July: Crossbore Mailer (Contractor Beware dropped Cross Bore info. Work with Culver to roll out to 11,000 HVAC and Contractors in New Castle Co. DE)
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# Increased Outreach: Contractor Beware & Crossbore

How Worker Beware Program became a PHI Initiative!

- Pre-2020, DPL-Gas Program Manager worked with Culver on rollout of Contractor program
- DPL-Gas was tracking damages and wanted something brand aligned to send to customers.
- In 2021, Contractor/Worker Beware became a program for all of PHI and was now owned by Damage Prevention group
- DPL-Gas continues to have a role in this work and work close with Damage Prevention on reviews and how the program is doing.
- 2022 Program Review reached over 31,000 contractors across PHI with over 375 kits requested and approx. 109,000 brand impressions.
- The PHI rollout removed cross-bore info. DPL-Gas had an in house mailer that went out to a small group of plumbers and HVAC companies. In 2021, we expanded our cross-bore mailer to approx. 11,000 contractors, providing additional reach to our area.





## **New Ideas: The Source**

Adding Public Safety Messages To The Source Newsletter

- Company Online Newsletter
- News Articles Posted to Social Media
- Shareable from website via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or E-mail
- Informative pieces that were not normally covered in our traditional public awareness messaging
- Normally would come out of a meeting, an objective or a customer reaching out to an employee
- Looking back at old public awareness files to see if there are topics to pull for future release



The Source is Pepco Holdings' hub for stories on our work providing reliable service, connecting diverse communities, and powering a 21st century economy across the Atlantic City Electric, Delmarva Power and Pepco jurisdictions.



Jun 3rd, 2021

Why Does My Gas Flame Burn Blue, Yellow and Orange?



Gas

Gas Meters In High Traffic Areas

nger, Cleaner Grid



Aug 10th, 2022

Mar 20th, 2023

What You Need to Know About Gas Leak Surveys



## **New Ideas: Gas Safety Advertising Campaign**

### Create A Gas Safety Campaign

- Campaign debuted in 2022
- Worked with our Advertising team (Corporate Communications) to develop.
- Drive awareness with contractors and homeowners of the importance of calling 811 before you dig.
- Campaign Starts in April and runs 30 days\*
- OOH (Billboards) Four Digital and Printed billboards along I-95, US40, US202 and US 13 in New Castle County.
- Social Media placements: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor (New)
- Search Engines: Google
- Over 14 million impressions
- Search Engine: 2023 CTR 19.49% from 1.76% in 2022
- Decrease in overall 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Damages in 2023 and becoming on of the best overall years
- Ideas for 2024: Add Streaming Ads (Spotify)







Ad · www.delmarva.com/call811 \*

Get the Green Light to Dig | Call 811 Before You Dig

Mark the utility lines at your dig site with one free and easy call.

## **New Ideas: Additional Gas Safety In Welcome Packets**

- Welcome Packets are sent out to all customer that take part in DPL-Gas My Switch To Gas Program
- Once a meter is installed on the property, the MSTG team will put a packet together which includes a Welcome Letter, Scratch & Sniff card and Water Gauge Card (Water Gauge added in 2021).
- In 2023, the addition of Important Natural Gas Safety Information was included in all letters.







July 12, 2023

DARA TROISE 1222 WILSON RD WILMINGTON DELAWARE 19803

#### Dear Customer,

Thank you for participating in our Switch to Gas program. We are delighted that you have made the switch to safe, clean, and affordable natural gas service in your home.

As a new natural gas customer, we encourage you to review the enclosed "scratch and sniff" card and Important Natural Gas Safety Information, and share it with others in your home, so you are familiar with the safety precautions pertaining to natural gas use. If you have converted your hot water heater, we have included a "hot water gauge" card for you to use and determine if your settings are at the right temperature. Additionally, below is a list of helpful phone numbers if you have questions regarding your natural gas service:

Gas Emergency: 302-454-0317 Customer Care/Billing Inquiries: 800-375-7117

If you have any further questions regarding your conversion to natural gas, feel free to contact our Switch to Gas Team at 302-429-3117.

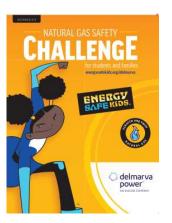
#### Sincerely,

Switch to Gas Team Delmarva Power

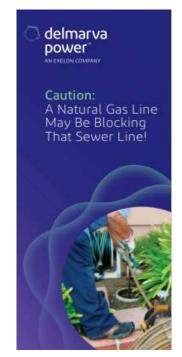
www.delmarva.com/myswitchtogas/

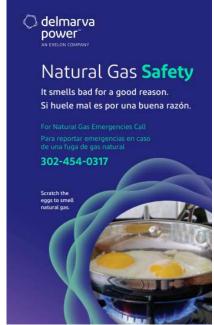
## **Updated Branding - 2022**

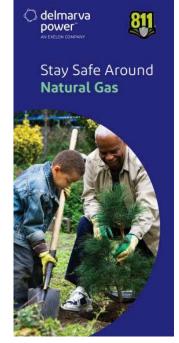
- Exelon updated all branding in 2022
- Objective was to have all DPL-Gas materials updated and approved by end of year
- Worked with PHI Marketing Team and Exelon Branding Team to assure guidelines were being followed
- All updated materials were utilized at beginning of 2023
- All Public Awareness
   Materials
- All Doorhangers (Outreach)











## Other Outreach

Since 2020, I have been the primary contact for all other DPL-Gas outreach as needed. This includes:

- COVID-19 Updates to all letters where we need access inside property
- Communication Letters
- Doorhangers
- Construction Notices
- Internal Documents

## What Is Next?



Dat	te:
De	ar
You	ur gas service at:
Add	dress:
	s interrupted due to:
	Repairs made to our gas equipment
	Repairs made to our gas equipment Maintenance/Repair to our gas main/service lines

Repairs have been completed, and your gas equipment/facilities have been left in safe condition. Please call Delmarva Power at 800-375-7117 to make arrangements to have your service restored.

Thank you.

delmarva.com

## delmarva power

AN EXELON COMPANY

#### We Visited Today

Date:	Time:	_
Street Address:		

It is important that you contact us promptly to schedule an appointment so that we may gain access to our gas meter.

Delmarva Power regularly conducts surveys of our gas lines and equipment in order to continue providing safe and reliable service. Our representatives have tested our equipment on your property, but could not obtain access to the meter. An appointment is required because we must have access to the meter to complete the survey and conform to state and federal regulations. There is no charge for this service.

Please call 800-375-7117 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Hicimos una visita a su hogar hoy, si necesita informacion adicional favor de llamar 800-375-7117.

delmarva.com

Ultramate Street Street Street, St.



#### **Immediate Action Needed**

Service Location: _			_	-
Date of Visit:	-			-
Time of Visit:				

Delmarva Power is committed to delivering safe and reliable natural gas service for our customers. As part of our natural gas modernization project, we will be upgrading the service lines that connect our gas main to your home or business. This work may require moving and upgrading your gas meter with new equipment that has several enhanced safety features.

This work is performed at no additional cost to you.

If your meter is located inside your premises, our work will require access to your home or basement.

Please contact our Gas Field Services Supervisor at 667-313-1363 to schedule a time for us to access the natural gas equipment at your home or business and complete this work.

If you have a question or concern that you wish to ask Delmarva Power directly, please call us at 800-375-7117.

Thank you for your cooperation.

delmarva.com

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# Thank you

Jim.Santora@pepcoholdings.com

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