

Reminder: Call Before You Dig

Call Before You Dig is a free service that prevents dangerous and costly accidents by helping you stay clear of underground utilities. Klickitat PUD customers are reminded to use this service every time they dig, whether they are planning a major construction project or landscaping their yard.

Call 811 or (800) 424-5555 at least 48 hours before digging or excavating. You also can visit www.callbeforeyoudig.org and make your locate requests online.

This service is available 24 hours a day. When calling, be prepared to give the following information:

- Your name and phone number.
- The location of the site where you plan to dig. A street address and specific directions are necessary. The site must be marked with white spray paint so we know exactly where you will dig.
- The type of work you plan to do.
- The date you plan to begin.

The service will contact all of the appropriate utilities in Klickitat County for you, including Klickitat PUD. Utility representatives will respond and mark the locations of their underground utilities.

KPUD representatives for electrical lines are Bernie Predeek, Martin Taylor and Dan Charters. They respond to the requests from the notification center and mark the underground power lines, cables or conduits and lighting cables with red spray paint.

Did you know Klickitat PUD provides water and wastewater services to many communities throughout the county?

The PUD maintains water and/or sewer lines in Glenwood, Klickitat, Lyle, Dallesport, Roosevelt and Wishram, as well as the Ponderosa Park and Rimrock areas in Goldendale.

If you dig in one of these communities, a member of the PUD water/



Travis Heilman demonstrates how an underground utility line is located and painted.

wastewater crew will respond and mark the appropriate water and sewer lines.

These crew members are Rod Kiser, Tim McMurrin, John Tallman, Brandon Walter and Greg Watson.

Water is marked in blue, and sewer and drain lines are marked in green.

Getting these lines marked can keep customers from hitting or cutting off power, water, phone, cable, sewer or gas lines with digging equipment. Within two feet of the spray-painted marks, you should take special care and dig by hand. Accidental contact with any of these lines can result in serious injury.

“Any time you disturb the earth, you run the risk of accidentally digging into

underground power lines, sewer and water mains, cable TV lines or other services,” says KPUD Assistant Engineer Mike Blumenstein. “When you want to get started on a project, it can be a nuisance to wait for two working days while utilities mark their services. But those two days can save your life.”

Each year, the PUD receives more than 1,300 of these location requests, countywide. This service is dedicated to protecting citizens and construction personnel who work around utilities, as well as safeguarding the underground infrastructure of your community.

Work safely this season. Remember to call before you dig. ■