

Call Before You Dig

Call 811 before any digging project to keep you and underground utilities safe

Spring is finally here! With the snow melting and the ground ready for planting, eager homeowners are gearing up to start outdoor digging projects.

Before you reach for the shovel to start digging, remember to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig number.

Our land is made up of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires and cables. Striking an underground utility line while digging can harm you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

You must call 811 before every digging project, from simple landscaping projects such as planting trees or shrubs, to building a deck or installing a rural mailbox.

Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without calling 811. You also can visit www.callbeforeyoudig.org and enter your locate requests online.

Here is how it works:

- One free, simple phone call to 811 makes it easy for the local one-call center to notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent.
- Call at least 48 hours prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked.
- When you call, a representative will ask for the location and description of the digging project.
- Klickitat PUD will send an employee to mark the approximate location of your lines.
- Once lines have been properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.

The representatives for marking electrical lines are Dan Charters, Ed Lexa and Tim Garrigus. They respond to requests from the notification center and mark the underground power lines,



A dig-in by a customer replacing their water line without locates. The UG transformer in the upper right had underground lines directly where the customer dug with a backhoe. Luckily, no one was injured. It was a dangerous and costly mistake for the customer.

cables or conduits, and lighting cables with red spray paint.

KPUD also provides water and wastewater services to many communities throughout the county.

The PUD maintains water and sewer lines in Glenwood, Klickitat, Lyle, Dallesport, Roosevelt, Bickletat, Wishram and the areas of Ponderosa Park and Rimrock in Goldendale.

If you dig in one of these communities, a member of the PUD water and wastewater crew will respond and mark water and sewer lines.

Crew members are Rod Kiser, Tim McMurrin, Brandon Walter and Greg Watson.

Water is marked in blue. Sewer and drain lines are marked in green.

Getting these lines marked prevents digging equipment from hitting or cutting off power, water, phone, cable, fiber, sewer or gas lines. Take special care and dig by hand within two feet of marks.

“When you call, be prepared to answer a few questions,” says KPUD Staking

Engineer Miquette Ihrig. “You may even find it helpful to identify your proposed dig site on a map so you can recite the city, county and any obvious landmarks. You’ll also need to determine the distance and direction from the nearest cross street, and if no specific street or address is applicable, the township, range, section, and quarter-section of the work site.

“You are also required to mark the boundary of the excavation area with a white marking product. These accurate and timely locates are crucial for a successful dig.”

Each year, KPUD receives more than 1,300 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.

Calling before digging prevents damage to underground facilities, service interruptions and bodily injury.

Work safely this season. Know what’s below. Call before you dig. ■