

Call Before You Dig

Call 811 before digging to keep you and underground utilities safe

Spring is on the way! 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.

Call 811 before any digging project, from simple landscaping projects such as planting trees or shrubs to building a deck or installing a mailbox.

Every six minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without calling 811 or going to www.callbeforeyoudig.org to

submit a locate request online.

The process is simple.

It is free to call 811, and makes it easy for the local one-call center to notify all appropriate utility companies.

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. The representatives for marking electrical lines are Ed Lexa and Tim Garrigus. They respond to requests from the notification center and mark underground power lines, cables or conduits, and lighting cables with red spray paint. Once lines have been properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.

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, Bickleton, 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, Greg Watson and Noah Halm. 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. Be careful and dig by hand within 2 feet of marks.

Helpful tips when you call include:

- Identify the proposed dig site on a map so you can recite the city, county and any obvious landmarks.
- Determine the distance and direction from the nearest cross street.
- Identify the township, range, section and quarter section of the work site if no specific street or address is applicable.

Customers are required to mark the boundary of the excavation area in white.

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

Calling before you dig prevents damage to underground facilities, service interruptions and injury.

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

