



⚠️ Hazard alert

Electrical Hazard — Call before you dig!

An incident in Oregon involved an apprentice electrician who was driving an eight-foot grounding rod for a temporary electrical service. The rod was about four feet into the ground when it struck an energized underground conductor.

Though the apprentice was being supervised by a journeyman, neither worker followed procedures to locate underground conductors before starting the work.

The employee received a shock, at which time, the workers removed the rod with an insulated tool. The workers notified their office of the incident. They went on to install another rod in a different location — also without attempting to locate underground conductors. In both cases, the employees were in violation of established standards.

Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) standards require workers — especially electric contractors — to contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) **before** starting any in-ground work such as digging or driving objects. Oregon OSHA Division 3-Construction rules require locating utilities before digging.

Every contractor or subcontractor must call the OUNC before starting work. If a worker makes contact with an underground line or pipe, the result could be fatal. In addition, the contractor is responsible for all repair costs if the workers did not contact OUNC before starting work.



Call before you dig.

📞 800-332-2344 or 811

Know what's below.

Hazard alerts provide information on hazardous materials, equipment, or practices. For more information, contact the Oregon OSHA Standards and Technical Resources Section at 503-378-3272 or 800-922-2689 (toll-free), or visit our website at osha.oregon.gov.