

HAZARD ALERT

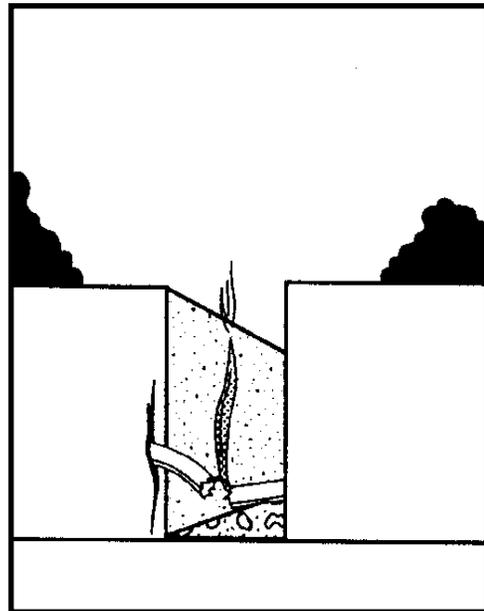
Call before you dig!

An apprentice electrician contacted an energized underground conductor while driving a grounding rod. The apprentice, working under the supervision of a journeyman, was driving the eight-foot-long grounding rod for a temporary electrical service. Neither worker followed procedures to locate underground conductors before starting work.

The rod was about three to four feet into the ground when it struck the conductor. The employee received a minor shock. The rod was removed with an insulated tool. The workers notified their office of the incident, then installed another rod in a different location, also without attempting to locate underground conductors.

Oregon PUC standards require workers (especially electrical contractors) to contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) before starting any in-ground work. Oregon OSHA standard OAR 437-003-1926.651(b)(1) requires locating utilities before digging. Each contractor or subcontractor must call the OUNC before starting work. If a worker contacts an underground line or pipe, the contact could be fatal. In addition, the contractor is responsible for all repair costs if they did not contact OUNC before starting work.

Call before you dig! In the Portland Metro Area, call 246-6699. In Clark County, call 696-4848. In all other areas of Oregon, call (800) 332-2344.



Hazard alerts are produced by the Oregon OSHA Standards and Technical Resources Section. They provide information on unusual safety or health hazards, or unusual or hazardous materials or practices. They contain information from OR-OSHA field staff, research from the Standards and Technical Resources staff and various published material.

For more information, contact Mike Mitchell, (503) 947-7450 or visit our Web site: www.orosha.org.