



HAZARD ALERT

June 2000

Electrical Hazard — Call before you dig!

Recently, in Eagle Point, Oregon, an apprentice electrician contacted an energized underground conductor while driving a grounding rod. The apprentice, working under the supervision of a journeyman, was driving an eight-foot long grounding rod for a temporary electrical service. Neither worker followed procedures to locate underground conductors before starting the 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 Public Utility Commission (PUC) standards require workers (especially electric contractors) to contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) *before* starting any in-ground work like digging or driving objects. Oregon OSHA standard OAR 437-003-1926.651(b)(1) requires locating utilities before digging. Read this standard at: www.cbs.state.or.us/external/oshapdf/rules/division_3/div3p.pdf.

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 (503)246-6699. In all other areas of Oregon call 1(800)332-2344.



www.digsafelyoregon.com/index2.html

Oregon
OSHA

Oregon OSHA
www.oroasha.org
(800) 922-2689

Hazard alerts 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 Resource staff and various published materials. For more information contact the Standard and Technical Resources Section at 503-378-3272, toll free at 1-800-922-2689 or visit our Web site at www.oroasha.org