



# September 2021

## Newsletter

### 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



#### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

#### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

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#### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



#### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



#### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



### Call Before You Dig

Fall projects are upon us. Whether you are trying to catch up on work that was delayed by the fires and smoke this summer, or just getting around to some property maintenance, we want you to remember to keep safety in mind for all your digging projects.

OCEC wants to remind all members who are planning any size project to call 811 at least two business days before you start digging. You may also submit a request online by visiting <https://digsafewa.com/>.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries, and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

## Go Paperless!

Do you check your email more often than your mailbox these days?

Want to be more environmentally friendly?

Paperless E-Bills might be just right for you.

With a quick call to 509-996-2228 during business hours or email to [info@ocec.coop](mailto:info@ocec.coop) we can get you set up to reduce your paper clutter this year!

*We offer auto pay options too!*

## Wildfire Safety Texts

OCEC worked diligently to get key text alerts out to our membership during our recent Cedar Creek and Cub Creek fire emergencies. Did you receive our messages?

We are continuing to develop our text alert communications to you and want to be sure we are reaching you!

Call (509) 996-2228 or go to [www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop) to sign up!

## 2021 Revolving Loan Funds

OCEC presented the final Revolving Loan Fund award for this year to Old Schoolhouse Brewery in August. The Revolving Loan Fund grants are available to our community for economic development in the Methow Valley at zero interest and only a 1% administrative fee. As these funds are paid back, we are able to loan the funds out again. OCEC would like to thank the USDA for their continued support of this program.



*Pictured are OCEC General Manager, Greg Mendonca and Old Schoolhouse Brewery owner, Jacob Young.*

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