

CENTREPOINT

MAY 2024



NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY IS MAY 31ST

The day was created to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety. It is critically important to not only understand the scope of the danger dams can present, but also be aware of the many ways you can keep yourself safe and avoid a tragedy. There are a huge number of things that can go wrong near dams, so it is always best to avoid them and stay a safe distance away both upstream and downstream. Remember - keep your distance, keep your life.

If you choose to go out on a waterway for recreational purposes, make sure you follow these tips:

1. Know the area and be aware of hazards.
2. Read and obey all posted signs and barriers.
3. Wear a personal floatation device and carry a safety whistle.
4. Tell someone your plans before you head out.
5. If you see someone in trouble, call 911.

In recognition of National Dam Safety Awareness Day, we will have safety whistles available to customers at the Newport Administration Building as well as the Box Canyon Visitor's Center while supplies last.

For more information, please visit the [Recreation](#) page of our website.



Have you ever arrived at a water recreational area or boat launch and realized you didn't have enough life jackets for everyone in your group? The life jacket loaner program provides the public with free use of life jackets on a first-come, first-served basis. Boaters should not rely on this program as a sole source for their life jackets. If a life jacket is borrowed from the loaner program, it should be returned the same day it is borrowed.

Life jacket loaner stations have been successfully used since the mid-1980s by various organizations as a tool in reducing public recreation-related fatalities on their waters. U.S. Coast Guard accident data shows that most drownings could have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn by the victim. The PUD contributes life jackets to the following loaner stations:

- Rotary Park & Boat Launch in Oldtown, ID (pictured)
- Campbell Park at Box Canyon Dam in Ione, WA

CONNECT



Private Utility Locates: When 811 Isn't Enough

Last month was National Safe Digging Month, a great reminder to always contact 811 before you dig! No matter how small your next home digging project is, remember to keep yourself and your community safe by contacting 811 to have the approximate location of buried utilities marked with paint or flags before breaking ground.

Notifying 811 before you dig is only half the job when it comes to locating underground utilities. The one-call service transmits your locate request to its member utilities, who generally mark their lines up to the meter and no further. Any underground utility lines beyond the meter belong to the property owner, who is responsible for maintaining them. These privately owned lines will not be marked unless the excavator or property owner arranges for a private utility locate.

What are private utility lines? Nearly every property will have buried utility lines that run to facilities such as detached garages, shops, or outbuildings, hot tubs, or landscape lighting. Irrigation and septic lines are also considered private utilities. Hitting private underground utilities can be just as costly and deadly as digging up utility-owned lines. Don't risk it!

You may not know what was installed before you owned the property or recall where these underground lines are located. If you suspect there may be privately owned underground lines in your dig area, hire a private-utility locating company to help you dig safely. Most 811 services offer a list of local locating companies.

CONNECT WITH US!

Main Line: 509.447.3137
North County: 509.446.3137
South County: 509.242.3137
TDD: 800.833.6388



Commissioners:

Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111
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Linemen Visit Kindergarteners

Last month our PUD linemen visited the Newport Stratton kindergarten students to teach them about electrical safety and what linemen do. Each of the 4 classes made signs for the linemen thanking them for all their hard work and for keeping the lights on at the schools! Thank you Stratton Students!

Our visit was the day before National Lineman Appreciation Day and we again want to thank our Pend Oreille PUD linemen and all linemen who help keep our communities powered through all types of conditions each and every day.

