

# CONNECT



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 Borrow-A-Life-Jacket loaner stations:

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

# PROJECT

MAY 2022

## NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

National Dam Safety Awareness Day is May 31st which was created to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety. 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 & 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:

- **Know the area:** Check maps or speak with locals to get information about hazards on that waterway.
- **Read the signs:** Obey any and all posted signage and barriers in the area, including flood warnings, restricted access signs, portage signs, or other posted signs.
- **Dress for danger:** Wear a personal floatation device and safety whistle if you are boating, fishing, swimming, or otherwise recreating in or around a waterway.
- **Tell someone your plans:** Let someone know, such as a friend or family member, when and to where you are heading out & let them know when you return so they know you are safe.
- **If you see someone in trouble, do not enter:** Never enter the water yourself to try and help someone. Instead, call 911 and use a remote assistive device, such as a rope or throw bag, to try and pull them back to safety.

**WE WILL HAVE PUD SAFETY WHISTLES AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.**

# 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!

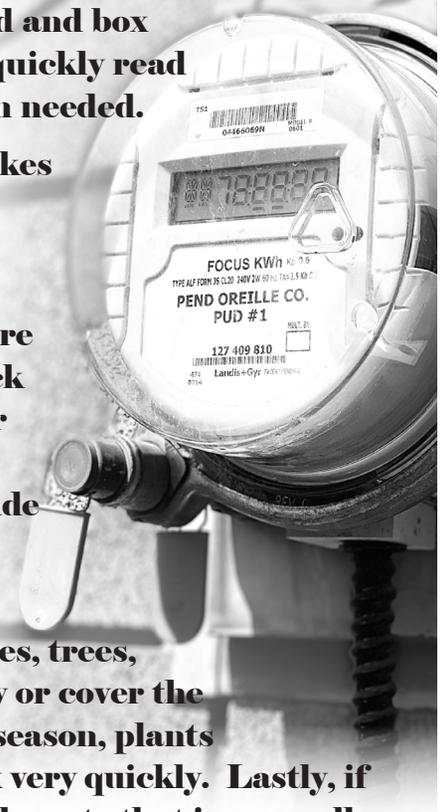
You may not know what was installed before you owned the property or recall where these underground lines are located. If you suspect there may be privately owned underground lines in your dig area, hire a private-utility locating company to help you dig safely. Most 811 services offer a list of local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

## Please Keep Your Electric & Water Meter Accessible

With the arrival of spring, be sure your electric meter is visible and accessible, clear of vegetation and debris, and free of other obstacles, such as stacked firewood, bicycles or toys. Often forgotten is your water meter; please also remember to keep your water meter lid and box accessible so our staff can quickly read and access your meter when needed.

Additionally, a clear box makes it easy to ensure that the lid fits properly, is safe and can be quickly turned off in an emergency. Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to the meter or meter box. Common items found blocking water meters include cars, trailers, garbage cans, landscape bark or gravel.

It is important to trim bushes, trees, and grass that block the way or cover the meter. During the growing season, plants can cover a water meter box very quickly. Lastly, if your meter is located behind a gate that is normally kept locked, please contact us to arrange access.



### CONNECT WITH US!

Main Line: 509.447.3137 • North County: 509.446.3137  
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#### Commissioners:

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