

# OSHA, PUC remind Oregonians: call before you dig



Governor Kate Brown has designated April as "Oregon Dig Safely Month." Per direction, the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) and Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) remind Oregonians to call 811 before digging.

Whether a professional contractor or do-it-yourselfer, all play an important role in preventing damage to underground utilities. No matter how big or small of a project, call Oregon 811 to avoid life-threatening injuries and prevent costly damage to necessary utility services. There are three easy steps to safe digging in Oregon:

- Call Oregon 811 (dial 811) at least two working days before starting a digging project.
- Wait for utilities to mark the underground lines.
- Dig carefully, paying close attention to the marks.

Once a call to 811 is made, the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC), which operates the free 811 one-call center, notifies the utility companies that serve the area of the planned project. Utility personnel then visit the project site to mark the approximate location of the underground lines, pipes and cables in the planned digging area at no cost to the

homeowner or employer.

Meanwhile, Oregon OSHA requires employers to follow requirements to protect workers against the potential hazards of underground utilities. Those requirements include:

- Notifying the OUNC of the proposed area of excavations at least two working days before starting an excavation. Estimating the location of utilities before opening or extending an excavation.
- Determining by safe and acceptable means, the exact location of the estimated utility installations when excavation activities approach them.
- While excavations are open, underground installations must be protected, supported, or removed as necessary to safeguard employees.

Statistics show that a majority of line strikes occur during the warmer months when excavation and construction work is being done. In 2020 an estimated 385,000 unique damages occurred nationwide, 22% of which were due to insufficient notice to the 811 service.

To reduce the number of line strikes in Oregon, there are strong local partnerships between the OUNC, Oregon OSHA, and the PUC to enhance the communication link and improve safety efforts.

Call 811 or visit [digsafelyoregon.com/resources/locate-requests](http://digsafelyoregon.com/resources/locate-requests) to submit a locate request or to learn more about safe digging practices. View Governor Brown's Oregon Dig Safely Month Proclamation at [digsafelyoregon.com/news](http://digsafelyoregon.com/news).

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Oregon OSHA offers employers free consultations - no fault, no citations, no penalties - to improve workplace health and safety programs and practices. It also offers free technical help with understanding and applying workplace safety rules.

Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, enforces the state's workplace safety and health rules, and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers. For more information, go to [osha.oregon.gov](http://osha.oregon.gov).

The PUC regulates customer rates and services of the state's investor-owned electric, natural gas and telephone utilities, as well as select water companies. The PUC's mission is to ensure Oregon utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high quality utility services at just and reasonable rates. For more information, visit [oregon.gov/puc](http://oregon.gov/puc).

## More flooding, mudslides in Oregon as extreme fires to be followed by extreme rains

BY ALEX BAUMHARDT  
*Of the Salem Capital Chronicle*

Oregon will face more mudslides and flooding during the next 80 years as a result of extreme wildfires followed by extreme rains, according to scientists in Colorado, California and Washington.

The findings, published in *Science Advances* - the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science - show that extreme wildfire events across the west will increase in the next several decades, and by the later half of the century, extreme rainfall events will be just as common.

The combination of the two will lead to greater risk of flood and mudslides due to landscapes destabilized by fires, the scientists concluded.

Danielle Touma is a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who worked on the study with researchers from the University of California in Santa Barbara and from Washington State University in Vancouver.

"You're getting an increase in one of these ingredients at the beginning of the 21st century," Touma said, "and by the end of the 21st century you're getting both."

She said that of the 11 states they looked at, Oregon "will have the largest changes in terms of extreme weather

events."

Maps of wildfire and rainfall projections show the greatest growth in fire and rainfall will occur in eastern Oregon. Touma said she and her colleagues ran hundreds of years of climate data to reach their projections, but did not explore why the eastern half of the state appears to have more fire and rain events through the rest of the century.

Touma cited ongoing drought in the eastern part of Oregon as well as effects of air pressure and temperature increases east of the Cascades in the decades ahead.

The projections were based on greenhouse gas emissions continuing without climate mitigation efforts outlined in the Fifth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. That report was published in 2014.

The final installment of the Sixth Assessment Report was published Monday, and showed that while there is evidence of some countries decreasing greenhouse gas emissions since 2014, emissions overall during the last decade were the highest in human history.

The frequency and duration of wildfires and heavy rains in the West has accelerated due to human-caused climate change, according to the scientists. Without global climate mitigation, Oregon could face up to seven extreme

wildfires and seven extreme rainfall events per year by 2100, according to the study.

"Our results point to a future with substantially increased post-fire hydrologic risks across much of the western United States," the report states.

While rains following a fire might sound beneficial, Touma said it's a recipe for mudslides, floods and destruction.

"Extreme rain can be detrimental after a fire," Touma said. "The landscape changes a lot. It loses vegetation, the soil becomes hydrophobic so it repels water, it doesn't absorb it."

The loss of vegetation means a loss of root systems holding soil in place. Layers of burned debris on the surface flow into waterways and down slopes.

"Sometimes you don't even need that much rainfall to trigger an event," she said.

The scientists found that impacts are greater when extreme rainfall occurs within one or two years after a wildfire, because there is still a large amount of surface debris and loose soil.

Within five years of an extreme wildfire event, the scientists predict Oregon would see at least three rain events following in an impacted area.

### NO LICENSE

Rachel Isabelle Nava, \$265; Kaycee Shyann Alizabet Stanton, \$265; Jorge E Corral, \$265; German Roldan-Soto, \$245; Andrew Duane McClelland, \$307; Felipa Espinosa Viveros, \$245;

### NO INSURANCE

Rachel Isabelle Nava, \$307; Kaycee Shyann Alizabet Stanton, \$307; Jorge E Corral, \$307; Victoria Lenette Hensley, \$265; Rachel Marie Hazen, \$265; Cesar Lozano Barrera, \$265; Natalie Sue Krummen, \$265; Bruce Wayne Stout, \$265; Jason Michael West, \$265; Bryan Robert McClaskey, \$235; Ramon A Davalos Orozco, \$150;

### NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Tricia Alexis Haslett, \$307; Ivan N Kulikov, \$265; Anthony James Earl Vorderstrasse, \$265; German Roldan-Soto, \$245; Andrew Duane McClelland, \$265; Ignacio Lopez Urena, \$265; Flor Estela Chavez San Juan, \$265; Jessie Miguel Cornejo, \$265; Nicolas G Macalino, \$235; Gregory S Moser, \$265;

### DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED

Damian Jerardo Garcia, \$482; Victoria Lenette Hensley, \$440; Ivan N Kulikov, \$482; Rachel Marie Hazen, \$482; Cesar Lozano Barrera, \$482; Anthony James Earl Vorderstrasse, \$482; Natalie Sue Krummen, \$482; Bruce Wayne Stout, \$482; Brandon Derek Cardenas, \$482; Stacia Marie Purdie, \$482; Cori Ellen Winchester, \$482; Alan Curtis Jones, \$482; Jason Michael West, \$440; Ignacio Lopez Urena, \$482; Flor Estela Chavez San Juan, \$482; Jessie Miguel Cornejo, \$482; Bryan Robert McClaskey, \$395; Gabriela Vicentin Vega, \$440; Jose Jesus Hernandez Camilo, \$440; Cameron Tyler James Phillips, \$482; Gregory S Moser, \$482;

### USE OF MOBILE DEVICE

Bradly Allen Blaise, \$307; Noemi Venegas, \$235;

### SPEEDING

Victoria Lenette Hensley, \$207; John Anthony Bugado, \$245; Anita Michele Lowe, \$235; Blanca A Azucena Delgado, \$135; Micah Jeffrey Summerfelt, \$145; Graeson Joseph Williams, \$135; Andrea Elizabeth Gale, \$135; Luz E Chavez Chavez, \$135; Elayne Delores Durham, \$145; Biaggio Didier Camarena, \$235;

### FAILURE TO OBEY

### TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

Jacob Aaron Coble, \$245; Ian Eugene Monjar, \$307; Jason Michael West, \$307; Cameron Tyler James Phillips, \$265; Bryan Oliver Vasquezbec, \$235;

### OTHER

Branden Lee Reaves, \$307, careless driving; Ivan N Kulikov, \$115, failure to register vehicle; Jonathan Xavier Canchola Bravo, \$100, careless driving; Skyler Allen Christensen, \$307, careless driving; Darryl Dean Gibson, \$157, pedestrian failure to yield to vehicle; Kenton Richard Kugler, \$385, careless driving; Devon Everett Bell, \$115, failure to register vehicle; Christina Marie Richards, \$40, failure to renew registration; Edwin Hugo Fink, \$245, dangerous left turn; Jason Gaudia Fortaleza, \$265, dangerous left turn; Gabriela Vicentin Vega, \$265, misuse of special left turn lane; Matthew Jon Dyer, \$395, careless driving; Robert John Peters, \$40, failure to renew registration;