



Marion County Public Works  
Land Dev. Engrg. & Permits  
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## **O.U.N.C. REQUIREMENT** (PERMIT PREREQUISITE)

Marion County Public Works will be granting you the right to construct and operate a private underground utility facility that crosses the public right-of-way. Periodically, various entities such as public utilities, private contractors, or even Marion County Public Works may be doing underground work in this area. There exists the possibility that your facility could be damaged or it could cause problems for others working in the area. These potential problems are liabilities for you.

To reduce potential liabilities for everyone involved, a notification system has been developed which identifies facilities in the right-of-way before work begins in the area. With these existing facilities identified, there is a much less chance of accidents or damages to the facilities. The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 757.557 states “every operator of underground facilities **shall** subscribe to the Oregon Utility Notification Center.” The 1995 Senate Bill 559, section 4, paragraph 3 details the liability facility owner/operators retain if they fail to become a part of this notification system. The Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) operates this notification system in Oregon.

The OUNC has developed various zones in Oregon that maintain maps of areas where operators like you have underground utilities. Marion County is in the OUNC Zone #1. When the OUNC receives a request by someone to excavate in an area, the OUNC researches its maps and notifies all the facility owners in that area. The owners are then required to mark where the facilities are located. This marking is done with various colored paints on the ground over the facilities. The color of the paint is an indicator of the type of utility to be found there.

Should a company damage your system in the public right-of-way after you have properly identified it, the company then becomes liable for damages, injuries, and business disruptions.

In order to prevent injuries and reduce preventable damages to underground facilities, Marion County is requiring all permitted underground “utility” operators to provide proof of being a subscriber (member) to the OUNC so that your facility will be included on the OUNC maps.

As a subscriber to the OUNC, the first 49 locates requested of you each year by the OUNC are at no cost if the total requests for the year do not exceed the 49. Most small operations rarely reach the 49 per year point. When requests of you go beyond the 49, you then are back billed starting with request #1. The cost per request runs between \$0.90 and \$5.00.

Before the County’s Public Works Department will issue a permit to you to construct your utility in the public right-of-way, you must provide a OUNC “**District Code Number**” for this site. This number is the verification that you have become a member of the OUNC system and verification that this site is in the OUNC map system. To obtain the information about becoming a member, call the OUNC in Portland at (503) 232-1987. After your OUNC membership is processed, fill out the permit application with the District Code Number and return it to us with the fee so that we can proceed with issuing the permit to work in the County right-of-way.

The owner of this utility must remain a member of the OUNC as long as this utility is in the public right-of-way.