

## Call before you dig

Avoid dangers and problems by calling Gopher State One Call before you dig.

They will arrange for your local utilities to come to your property and mark all their underground utilities.



Minnesota State Statute 216D requires anyone who engages in any type of excavation, more than 12

inches deep, to call Gopher State One Call at 1-800-252-1166. This call must be made 48 hours prior to when work is to begin.

Gopher State One Call is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls after 5 p.m. and before 7 a.m. or on weekends or holidays are accepted for emergencies only. An emergency is “a condition that poses a clear and immediate danger to life or health or a significant loss of property”.

## Spring is hydrant flushing time

We will again be conducting the spring water distribution system flushing beginning in April. This is a routine maintenance of the water system and is done in the spring and fall. If you encounter discolored water during this period you can run the cold unsoftened tap for a few minutes to clear it up. The discoloration is not harmful to humans or animals. If you have any questions or concerns please call our office at 763-389-2252.

## Keep an eye out for work crews

Princeton Public Utilities crews are on call, as needed. Because of this, crews are usually called out in situations with high wind, rain, freezing temperatures, snow and ice, or a mixture of all of them.

Safety is the top priority for crews and you can help ensure that they get home safely after work by using caution around utility work zones.



Your local crews thank you!

## Maintain a.c. before you need it

Hard to believe with the spring we have been having, but it will soon be time to make sure your air conditioner is running efficiently.

An air conditioner’s filters, coils, and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its years of service. Neglecting necessary maintenance ensures a steady decline in air conditioning performance while energy use steadily increases.

The most important maintenance task is to routinely replace or clean air filters. Keeping the filter clean can lower your air conditioner’s energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

# The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

## The latest in home lighting

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs made incandescent bulbs obsolete for most uses, and now Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs may do the same to CFLs.

LEDs bring more value since they last up to 10 times as long as compact fluorescents. Other advantages include:

- Durable – Because they are solid, LED bulbs hold up well to jarring and bumping.
- Mercury-free. No mercury is used in manufacturing of LEDs.
- More efficient – LED light bulbs use only 2-17 watts of electricity, or about a third of that used by a comparable CFL.

We have rebates available for purchase of LED bulbs. Want more information on lighting or our complete menu of home and business energy efficiency programs? Stop by our office at 907 1st St., call us at 763-389-2252 or do a web search for [saveenergyinprinceton.com](http://saveenergyinprinceton.com)

## ***Remember these easy rules for home electrical safety***

**Power Tools:** Electric-powered tools should not be used in the rain, on wet grass or in wet conditions. Inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers before each use for frayed power cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. If a tool is damaged, stop using it immediately. Repair it or replace it. Always use an extension cord marked for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your tools.



**Ladders:** Metal ladders and even wood ladders will conduct electricity, so watch out for overhead wires and power lines.

**Lightning:** During an electrical storm, do not use appliances (i.e. hairdryers, toasters, and radios) or telephones (except in an emergency); do not take a bath or shower; keep batteries on hand for flashlights and radios in case of a power outage; and use surge protectors on electronic devices and appliances.

**Space Heaters:** Space Heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Keep space heaters at least 3 ft. away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture, and rugs. Don't use in rooms where children are unsupervised and unplug when not in use.

**Halogen Floor Lamps:** Halogen floor lamps operate at much higher temperatures than a standard incandescent light bulb. Never place a halogen floor lamp where it could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials.

## ***Princeton Public Utilities offers Energy Star product rebates***

Are you interested in products that save energy, save money and help protect the environment—all at the same time? Then look for the ENERGY STAR label. The ENERGY STAR is a national symbol for energy efficiency. The label identifies products that consume less energy and have met guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Dept. of Energy.



We offer rebates for the following ENERGY STAR qualified products: CFLs, light fixtures that have earned the ENERGY STAR; LEDs; refrigerators and freezers; dishwashers; clothes washers; ceiling fans with lighting; room air conditioners; dehumidifiers.

For more information, stop by our office at 907 1st Street or go to [saveenergyinprinceton.com](http://saveenergyinprinceton.com)

## ***Consider your electric service when planting that tree***

We all love trees, but trees can cause problems for utilities. Trees that grow into powerlines can cause outages and need to be trimmed.

The line clearing we have done the past year has definitely proved its value. We have seen fewer tree-line contacts and therefore fewer outages. We will also be conducting approved herbicide applications east of Princeton this year.

Thank you for your understanding as we perform this basic electrical system maintenance.

*Follow these basic tree-planting rules:*

Use trees with a mature height of 18 feet or less within 18 feet of a power line.

Plant evergreen trees on the north and west sides of your home. These trees create a windbreak that block cold winter winds. Plant deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees on the south and west sides of your home. These trees provide energy saving shade in the summer and let in winter sunshine.

