



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The Reliable One | MAY 2023

Follow us on  
Instagram  
@oucreliableone

## BE PREPARED WITH OUC'S STORM CENTER

*Hurricane season is just around the corner (June 1-Nov. 30), but bad weather can strike at any time. OUC's Online Storm Center can help you protect your family before, during and after a major storm. Here are tips to help you prepare:*

- 1 Update Contact Information** – Make sure we have your current phone number and email address.
- 2 Register for Outage Text Alerts** – Report an outage and get updates via text, voice or email. Alerts are available in English and Spanish! Text REG to **69682** to register or visit [OUC.com/alerts](https://www.ouc.com/alerts).
- 3 View OUC's Interactive Outage Map** – Get real-time outage information, including locations and estimated restoration times.
- 4 Request Tree Trimming** – Let us know if tree limbs appear to interfere with power lines.
- 5 Download OUC's Tropical Weather Guide** – Find important phone numbers, preparation tips, safety information and more.
- 6 View Safety/Informational Videos** – Learn how to stay safe around power lines, how we restore power, and more.

Learn more at [OUC.com/stormcenter](https://www.ouc.com/stormcenter).



## TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF HOME UPGRADES WITH OUC'S PREFERRED CONTRACTOR NETWORK

It can be a struggle to find a trusted professional to make repairs or upgrades around your home. So, we've taken out the guesswork and assembled a list of OUC-trusted contractors. Our Preferred Contractor Network (PCN) includes professionals who have been vetted by our team and adhere to a strict code of conduct and ethics.

To find a contractor, visit [ouc.com/pcn](https://www.ouc.com/pcn).



# MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

*While OUC commits to be safe always, we encourage you to take safety precautions inside and outside your own home as well.*



## INDOOR SAFETY TIPS

- Install light bulbs that are the correct wattage for the size of fixtures.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- Repair or replace an appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit, or if it has caused an electric shock.
- Protect children and pets by covering unused wall outlets with plastic safety caps.
- Never remove the third prong of a three-pronged plug. The third prong is designed to safely ground electricity.
- Test smoke alarms monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace units every 10 years.

## OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

- Call **8-1-1** before you dig. Many utility lines are underground.
- Keep children and pets a safe distance away when you operate a mower, chain saw or other power equipment.
- Don't use electrical tools or appliances in the rain, on wet surfaces, or while standing in water.
- Use only weather-resistant heavy gauge extension cords marked "For Outdoor Use."
- Always keep tools, object and yourself at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Don't overload outdoor electrical and/or extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.

Stay safe and visit [OUC.com/safety](https://www.ouc.com/safety).



## NEED A NEW A/C? OUC CAN HELP!

OUC makes it easy to create an energy efficient home. *Looking to upgrade your A/C to a more efficient model?* Customers who switch to a 15 SEER or higher heat pump HVAC are eligible to receive a rebate up to \$1,630.

Learn more and apply at [OUC.com/rebates](https://www.ouc.com/rebates).

## SAVE ENERGY, AND CASH WITH AN ONLINE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDIT

With summer temperatures around the corner, now is the time to assess your energy usage to keep your bill in check. Our online home energy efficiency audit evaluates your home's energy efficiency and make suggestions on improvements.



Get started from the comfort of your own home at [OUC.com/energyaudit](https://www.ouc.com/energyaudit).

Para ver esta edición de **OUConexión**, por favor vaya en línea a [espanol.ouc.com](https://www.espanol.ouc.com).



ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION

RELIABLE PLAZA • 100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32801  
Tel: 407-423-9018 • [ouc.com](https://www.ouc.com)

