



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | AUGUST 2022

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## OUC NAMED 'ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION' FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

OUC—The *Reliable One* has been named a 2022 Environmental Champion in Escalent's Utility Trusted Brand and Customer Engagement study. Only 31 utilities in the nation received the honor, with OUC scoring the most points for "environmental dedication" among electric peers.

This is the fifth year in a row OUC has claimed Escalent's recognition for environmental stewardship.

Environmental Champions are selected based on survey results from customers who rate their energy providers on sustainability stewardship in their business operations, provide energy efficiency programs to help lower consumption,

support environmental causes and on their commitment to clean energy.

"OUC is proud that our customers recognize our long-standing commitment to sustainability and energy innovation, particularly as we work toward our goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050," said **Clint Bullock**, OUC's General Manager & CEO.



Read the full story at [OUCBlog.com](https://www.oucblog.com).

## BACK TO SCHOOL CONSERVATION TIPS

- 1 Keep the Fridge Closed** – When you're packing lunches, don't leave the fridge open. Remove all needed items first.
- 2 Use a Laptop** – For homework that requires a computer, a laptop uses less energy than a desktop.
- 3 Turn Up the Thermostat** – When the house is empty, consider bumping the thermostat above 78 degrees. Save an extra 6-8% on your bill for each degree you raise it.



- 4 Practice Good Laundry Habits** – Between school, sports and clubs, laundry can pile up. Make sure you're washing only full loads in cold water.
- 5 Unplug Unused Devices** – Unplugging unused electronic devices and appliances will stop them from using "vampire energy," electricity consumed while in standby mode.



For additional conservation tips, visit [www.ouc.com/conservation](https://www.ouc.com/conservation).



## POWER LINE SAFETY: EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION

If you're involved in a car accident with a power line or utility pole, immediately **call 911** but **DO NOT** exit your vehicle unless it is on fire.

### *If your car catches fire:*

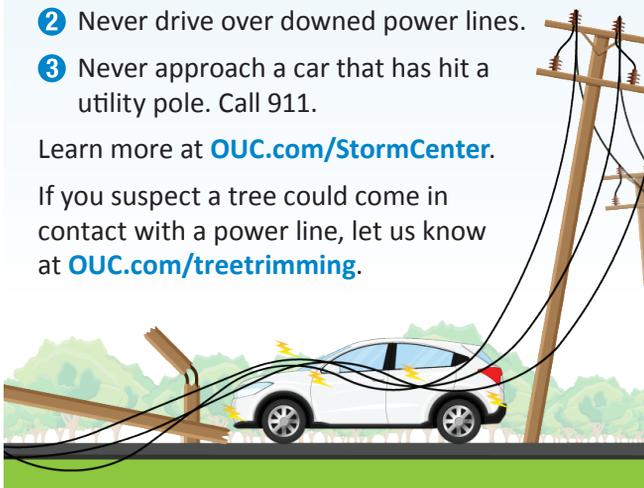
- 1 Jump clear and land on both feet.
- 2 Keep both feet together.
- 3 Shuffle away from the car.

### *Safety Tips:*

- 1 Always assume the line is energized, and never touch or try to move a downed power line.
- 2 Never drive over downed power lines.
- 3 Never approach a car that has hit a utility pole. Call 911.

Learn more at [OUC.com/StormCenter](http://OUC.com/StormCenter).

If you suspect a tree could come in contact with a power line, let us know at [OUC.com/treetrimming](http://OUC.com/treetrimming).



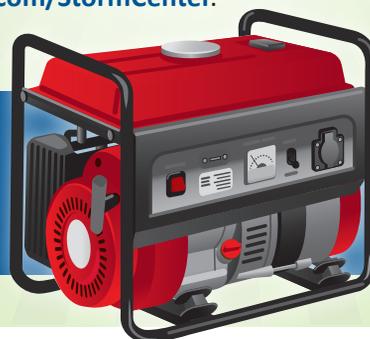
## STORM SEASON: GENERATOR SAFETY



When a storm knocks out power, a generator can be incredibly useful. But be sure to follow these tips to stay safe:

- Never plug the generator into a home outlet. Doing so could re-energize power lines, endangering neighbors and utility crews.
- Install a transfer switch.
- Place the generator outside and away from open windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide fumes from entering your home.
- Turn off a gas-powered generator and let it cool before refueling it.
- Keep a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Keep children and pets away from generators.

Find more storm season safety tips at [OUC.com/StormCenter](http://OUC.com/StormCenter).



## SCAM ALERT

OUC will never request payment or ask for your bank or credit card information over the phone; if a payment is required, you will always be directed to an automated phone system or to pay via [my.OUC.com](http://my.OUC.com) or an authorized payment location.

Learn more about common utility scams at [OUC.com/scams](http://OUC.com/scams).

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