



CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | SEPTEMBER 2016

INSIDE

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OUC To Upgrade Electric Distribution System In Parts Of St. Cloud



In order to maintain the most dependable, reliable service possible, OUC will soon upgrade the distribution systems in several St. Cloud neighborhoods. As crews replace underground equipment, power will need to be turned off at select residences and businesses for a short period of time. At least 24-hour notice will be given to residences and businesses scheduled for a service interruption, and OUC will make every effort to minimize these effects.

If your neighborhood is to be affected, you will receive a letter from OUC.

Pike Electric – an OUC-hired contractor – will also inform you in person or via door-hanger notice when work is to begin in your area and provide more details. Crews will not need to enter homes, but please keep in mind that all OUC employees and contractors are required to wear clearly identifiable uniforms and name badges.

What Causes Momentary Power Outages?

A momentary outage – when your lights flicker or dim, then brighten again – is an electric interruption that usually lasts less than one second. These outages are usually caused by an automatic defense mechanism that's built into OUC's electric system and in many other high-quality systems across the nation. It's designed to prevent long-term outages requiring the deployment of line technicians. So, let's say a branch or squirrel makes contact with a power line.

The system automatically senses it, briefly opens the line, and allows whatever made contact time to clear. While certainly inconvenient, these very small voltage changes do not damage homes or businesses and they don't require surge protection as a lightning strike would. OUC works hard year-round to limit these momentary outages through regular tree-trimming near power lines and by maintaining wildlife protection at overhead transformer locations.





Join Us In Celebrating Public Power Week 2016

OUC will join more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities across the nation to celebrate Public Power Week, **October 2-8, 2016**. These utilities collectively provide electricity to nearly 48 million Americans. Municipal utilities are proud to focus on a common mission – providing reliable electricity at a reasonable price, while protecting the environment.

During the week, OUC's social media channels will provide insight into the benefits and unique values of having a hometown utility.



PUBLIC POWER

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#PublicPowerWeek • October 2-8, 2016



Stay Far Away From Downed Power Lines

It's a common myth that power lines are insulated like a power cord, making them safe to touch even while energized. **THIS IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE!** Power lines are not insulated. In fact, what may look like insulation is actually weatherproofing material. Here are some common questions and answers to keep in mind if you encounter a downed power line:

⚡ WHAT DO I DO IF I SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE?

Stay far away and immediately call **9-1-1** or OUC at **407-957-7373**.

⚡ WHAT IF A POWER LINE IS TOUCHING MY VEHICLE?

Stay in the vehicle and immediately call **9-1-1**. Make sure people around the vehicle stay far away. Exit the vehicle only when safety officials give you the all clear.

⚡ WHAT IF A VEHICLE I'M IN CATCHES FIRE AFTER COMING INTO CONTACT WITH A POWER LINE?

Jump as far away from the vehicle as possible making sure that no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and shuffle at least 30 feet away, keeping your feet in constant contact with the ground.

⚡ CAN I DRIVE OVER A DOWNED POWER LINE?

No! It is a myth that tires protect you from electric voltage. Also, even if not energized, power lines can become entangled in your vehicle.

⚡ CAN I MOVE A DOWNED POWER LINE MYSELF?

No! The line may be energized and should only be moved by utility workers.

Para ver esta edición de *OUConexión*, por favor vaya en línea a espanol.ouc.com.



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