

Your Energy Connection



February 2015

Natural Gas Safety for Your Home

When used properly, natural gas provides customers with clean, reliable, efficient, and safe energy. However, because there are potential dangers associated with natural gas usage, Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) recommends the following safety tips:

- Look for a steady, blue flame, which indicates the appliance is operating correctly. Decorative gas fire logs are the exception as they usually have a yellow flame.
- Have all gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home inspected every year by qualified industry professionals.
- Keep the areas around all appliances and equipment clean and unblocked to allow for proper air flow.
- DO NOT use your stove or oven for anything other than cooking.
- DO NOT move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.
- DO NOT install a gas appliance yourself. Always seek professional assistance.
- DO NOT store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for the care and use of gas appliances and equipment to prevent leaks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Signs of a natural gas leak:

- The strong smell of “rotten eggs”
- A shrill blowing or hissing sound
- Dirt blowing up from a hole in the ground
- Dead or discolored vegetation over or near a pipeline
- Persistent bubbles in streams, ponds, or wet areas

If you smell gas in the home:

1. Look for a pilot light that is out. If you see one, turn the appliance off and open a window to let gas escape.
2. Don't turn electrical switches on or off, or use a flashlight or telephone, because an electric spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.
3. Wait five minutes and if you still smell gas around the appliance after turning it off and ventilating the room, do not relight the pilot light.
4. Call Rocky Mount Public Utilities at (252) 467-4800.
5. The City of Rocky Mount maintains ownership and is responsible for all gas mains and services leading up to the meter. After the customer calls to report a gas leak, a gas technician will be dispatched to the customer's residence to check the meter and service lines leading up to the meter. If no gas leak or other issue is found with the City-owned equipment, the technician will turn the gas off at the meter to make it safe until the customer can make arrangements with a contractor.
6. All gas lines and appliances from the meter to the interior of the home are the responsibility of the customer and will need to be inspected by a contractor.
7. Once a contractor has determined there is no leak or made any necessary repairs and the home is safe, the customer will need to call RMPU at (252) 467-4800 to have the gas turned back on.



Load Management Program

RMPU electric customers can earn up to \$129 per year in credits on their utility bill by having load management switches installed on one or more appliances:

- Electric Water Heater: \$2.00 credit per month
- Electric Heat Strips: \$15.00 credit per month during three months of winter
- Central Air Conditioner: \$20.00 credit per month during three months of summer

There is no fee for the switches or installation.

Enroll today by calling (252) 467-4803 or visiting www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/loadmanagement.html.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

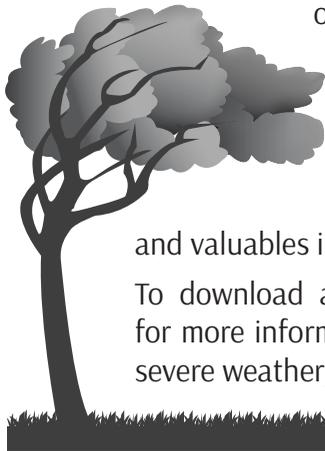
Severe weather can include hurricanes, droughts, tornadoes, snowstorms, and flooding. The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family.

National Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 8-14, 2015. This is a nationwide effort designed to increase awareness of the severe weather that affects everyone and to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to know their risk, take action, and be an example.

Before a storm strikes, take steps to make sure you and your family are prepared for severe weather:

- Develop a family communications plan so you will know how to contact one another if disaster strikes. To download a family communications plan template, visit www.fema.gov.
- Put an emergency kit together. The kit should include basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Example items include food, water, medications, flashlights, a radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, etc.
 - Keep important papers and valuables in a safe place.

To download an emergency supply list or for more information on how to prepare for severe weather, visit www.fema.gov.



Celebrate Arbor Day!

Friday, March 27, 2015
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

The courtyard at the Imperial Centre
for the Arts and Sciences
270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount, NC

(Rain location: Studio Theater in the
Arts Center at the Imperial Centre)

Free to the public

The event will include:

- Mayor and city council presentations
- Performances by local schools
- Presentation of the Tree City awards to the City of Rocky Mount
- Award presentations to winners of the 2015 Woodsy Owl Litter Art Show

Nash County Recycles Day

When: Saturday, March 7, 2015
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Parking lot of Nash County
courthouse in Nashville, NC

Featuring: community paper shredding, electronics collection, fluorescent lighting recycling, and a prescription drug take-back program



<http://kab.rockymountnc.gov>

