



ENERGY CONNECTION

May 2024

A Monthly Newsletter for the City of Rocky Mount Customers



Pictured above are employees in the Energy Resources Department - Gas Division as well as Local and Federal Representatives

Energy Resources - Gas Division Receives Federal Grant

Congratulations to the Energy Resources Gas Division for receiving a grant of almost \$5.5 million from the United States Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grants!

This funding will be instrumental in expediting infrastructure upgrades, accelerating the completion time of the current 20+-year improvement plan down to approximately 39 months. These grant funds will also help improve the traceability of our gas facilities and greatly reduce future potential leaks and work-related injuries. We appreciate Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown with PHMSA, Representative Don Davis and Erin Kurilla, the Vice President of Pipeline Safety and Operations

Hurricane Preparation Tips

The Atlantic hurricane season is from June 1st until November 30th. There is no better time to prepare for the upcoming season!

Take steps now using the following safety tips to help prepare your home and family.

- If you see utility trucks in your neighborhood, turn off your generator to keep technicians safe while they work.
- Have a portable, crank or solar powered USB charger on hand for your cell phone.
- Make a family emergency communication plan, so you will know how to contact one another if disaster strikes. Visit **Ready.gov** to create, download, and print a plan.
- Know your **evacuation zone** and be prepared to evacuate. Find out in advance where you can take your pets if you need to evacuate or take them with you.
- Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through water. Turn around, don't drown.
- Never use a generator, gasoline powered equipment and tools, grill, camp stove, or charcoal burning device inside a home or building, or even in a partially enclosed area. Keep these devices outside and at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.
- Know the signs of a natural gas leak, which include - vegetation over or near a pipeline appears dead or discolored; persistent bubbles in streams, ponds, or wet areas; strong “rotten egg” smell; shrill blowing or hissing sound; dirt blowing up from a hole. If you detect a gas leak, call **911** or **(252) 467-4800**.



Build an Emergency Supply Kit

One way to prepare for hurricane season is by building an emergency kit. Below is a list of suggested items to include in your kit. For more information, visit **www.ready.gov/kit**.

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and a manual can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and prescription medications
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container.





If You Lose Power

If you lose power, first look outside and see if your neighbors are also without power. If you're the only one, check your fuse box or circuit breaker panel to see if you can locate the problem.

If the neighboring homes are dark too, look to see if there are any trees or branches on the lines, or if there are downed wires, flashes of light, or any other signs of trouble. Don't touch or try to move electric lines or trees or any other obstacles in contact with electric lines. Report the outage by calling (252) 467-4800 to be directed to the city's automated system. Press #1 to report a

power outage. If you have information about damage to wires, transformers or poles, please stay on the line to speak with a dispatcher.

If an extended power outage occurs, restoring power all at once can cause an overload on the system, and power may be lost again. If you lose power, turn all appliances off except one light. When the light glows, you'll know the power has been restored. Turn off the stove and any heat-producing appliances. Once power is restored, gradually switch on appliances and return thermostats to their normal settings. Leave a porch light on so crews know when power has been restored to your home.

For questions or to report an outage, please call 252-467-4800.

Energy Savings Tip of the Month Prepare to Beat the Upcoming Heat!



Set the thermostat at the highest comfortable setting in the warmer months of the year. Rocky Mount Energy Resources recommends setting the thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months to maximize comfort and energy savings.

Follow along with Energy Resources on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) to stay up to date on energy savings tips, outage information and more.



Energy Resources Celebrates Arbor Day

Rocky Mount Energy Resources held its annual Tree Planting Ceremony in honor of Arbor Day on Friday, April 26th. Rocky Mount Mayor, Sandy Roberson issued the proclamation for the special event. Rocky Mount citizens are encouraged to stop by the Thelonious S. Monk Park at 127 Wye St Rocky Mount, NC 27801. Rocky Mount Energy Resources with the help of Rock Mount Parks and Recreation, planted two additional Nuttall Oak trees in the park in celebration of last week's Arbor Day Ceremony.

www.rockymountnc.gov/energy-resources



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