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*Pictured are employees in the Energy Resources gas division*

**City of Rocky Mount to celebrate Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day on  
March 18**

**Rocky Mount, N.C.** – Each year on March 18, the city of Rocky Mount observes Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day. On this day of recognition, communities across the country show appreciation to the employees who provide one of their most valuable assets—their natural gas utility.

Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day takes place on March 18 each year because that is the date of the 1937 school explosion in New London, Texas, that was caused by a natural gas leak. The tragic event led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety in the industry.

This annual nationwide event is intended to build public awareness about the hard work done by the employees of natural gas utilities. Our customers recognize the need to access reliable, affordable, safe energy and depend on the service of natural gas utility employees for that need.

The city of Rocky Mount Energy Resources department maintains the second largest gas system in North Carolina with 555 miles of natural gas distribution lines in Nash and Edgecombe counties. The Energy Resources department gas division includes management, engineering, dispatchers, compliance, maintenance, gas service technicians, gas meter technicians and the gas construction crews.

In addition to their hard work in providing and maintaining the city's natural gas services, the city's gas division is also a recipient of the Gold designation award in the American Public Gas Association's (APGA) prestigious System Operation Achievement Recognition (SOAR) program. SOAR awards are given to natural gas utilities that demonstrate excellence in worker safety, workforce development, system integrity and system improvement. The Gold designation is the SOAR award's highest level of recognition. Rocky Mount is one of only three gas systems to receive the Gold designation three times. The SOAR award is a testament to the city's commitment to safely providing natural gas service and the hard work of its natural gas workers.

"Each year on Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day, we recognize and honor all of our gas employees and the important roles they serve in providing natural gas service for our community," says Chris Beschler, director of Energy Resources. "Safety is truly a vital aspect of the gas industry. Our employees are dedicated to not only providing reliable service for our customers but also ensuring our employees and customers remain safe."

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of natural gas, please visit <https://rockymountnc.gov/natural-gas>. We invite the community to join us in celebrating our natural gas employees on March 18 and throughout the month of March by visiting the Energy Resources Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RockyMountEnergyResources](http://www.facebook.com/RockyMountEnergyResources).

### **About Rocky Mount**

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 58,000 residents daily.

The city's mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit [www.rockymountnc.gov](http://www.rockymountnc.gov) for news and updates.

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