



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: Wednesday May 10, 2017  
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## AUSTIN UTILITIES HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SAFETY PRACTICES

AUSTIN, Minn.— Austin Utilities (AU) has earned the American Public Power Association’s Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2016. The utility earned the first place award in the category for utilities with 110,000-249,999 worker-hours of annual worker exposure. Rick Aguilar, Chair of the APPA Safety Committee and Director of Job Training and Safety at Kansas Municipal Utilities, presented the award on May 8, during the Association’s annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in San Antonio, Texas.

“When it comes to electric utility operations, safety is a top priority for everyone involved; from lineman to operator,” said Aguilar. “These utilities have embraced a culture of safety while serving their local communities and deserve to be recognized.”

270 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards, which is among the highest number of entrants in the history of the program. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2016. The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2016, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

“Austin Utilities takes a lot of pride in its safety record,” said Mark Nibaur, general manager of AU. “When you are in the business we are in, sending our folks home safe to their families is our top priority.”

The Safety Awards have been held annually for the last 58 years. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

In addition, Austin Utilities has received national recognition from the APPA for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2016. The Association helps members track outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service and then compares the data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

Austin Utilities is a municipal utility serving approximately 12,300 electric customers, 10,300 natural gas customers, and 9000 water customers. Their mission is to offer utility products and services in a safe, reliable and responsible manner in order to enhance the quality of life in our community. Austin Utilities' Board of Commissioners are elected by the consumer-owners of Austin to represent their best interest. For more information on Austin Utilities visit their website at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com).

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