



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUSTIN UTILITIES to Observe National Gas Utility Workers' Day March 18

AUSTIN, Minn.— Austin Utilities will observe national Gas Utility Workers' Day on March 18, 2017. This is the second year in which Gas Utility Workers' Day has been officially celebrated across the country. This day of recognition is a time when communities such as ours give recognition to the employees who provide one of their most valuable assets—their natural gas utility.

The official Gas Utility Workers' Day is March 18 because that is the date of the New London, Texas school explosion in 1937 that led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution and the employees of distribution companies endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

This annual nationwide event is intended to build public awareness about the hard work done by the employees of natural gas utilities. On this day, we will also educate residents on the environmental, safety and cost benefits of using clean, reliable and affordable natural gas. Our customers recognize the need to access reliable, affordable, safe energy and depend on the service of natural gas utility employees for that need.

Austin Utilities currently employs 26 people in their natural gas department in positions that include gas construction, gas meter test and repair, and gas service technician. Service Technicians are available to respond to customer calls Monday through Friday during normal business hours and 24/7 service through their call-in dispatch service. They will celebrate the event with a breakfast for their Natural Gas employees.

A few facts:

Austin Utilities currently employs 26 staff members in their gas department

Austin Utilities maintains 178 miles of Natural Gas Main & 10,260 Customer Service Lines

We responded to 4,924 gas service orders in 2016

Austin Utilities looks forward to continuing to bring safe, reliable natural gas into your homes and businesses. We also hope you join us in supporting natural gas as a premier energy source for our country. As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, natural gas can help us achieve energy security and build a more competitive economy. If you would like to learn more about the benefits of natural gas and how your natural gas system works, please contact us at 507-433-8886.

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.

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