

Safety & Health Award Finalists

This award recognizes companies whose safety and health initiatives have benefited employee and customer well-being.

Entry Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program must be voluntary and not the direct result of mandates by regulations or enforcement decrees.

Submissions Overview

Safety & Health Award Finalists		
Company Name	Program Name	ID Number
Summit Utilities	Colorado Natural Gas (CNG) Safety Milestone	SH-1
Atmos Energy	First Responder Natural Gas Workshop	SH-2
Southern Company Gas	Transforming a Culture of Safety, Health & Well-being through Innovative Critical Risk Management & Southern Lifestyle	SH-3

Nomination SH-1	
SGA Member Company Name	Summit Utilities, Inc.
Program Name	<i>Colorado Natural Gas (CNG) Safety Milestone</i>
Program Description	<p>Summit Utilities, Inc.'s subsidiary, Colorado Natural Gas, achieved six years of no recordable injuries in 2016 because of the company's safety program -- most notably our "Stop Work Authority" procedure.</p> <p>Team members at Summit and CNG strive to live the company's PEAKS Values in every aspect of the business. PEAKS values are the core of the company representing Pioneering, Excellence, Agility, Kindness, and Safety.</p> <p>At Summit, exemplifying Safety means prioritizing the Safety of</p>

	<p>our colleagues, customers, and communities while performing our duties. This is achieved through a comprehensive and consistent training program, encouraging a safety-first culture combined with a speak-up culture, ensuring proper personal protection needs are always available and utilized, and, most importantly, holding ourselves and other team members accountable. In addition, Summit Utilities Stop Work Authority Procedure states, “Every team member has the authority and responsibly to stop work that does not follow safe work practices or comply with all applicable regulations.”</p> <p>Even in Colorado's diverse and, at times, harsh environmental conditions, with demanding workloads and varying levels of experience, the six-year injury-free milestone was attained due to the level of importance the CNG team members put on safety every day in every job.</p> <p>Senior EHS Specialist Joe Wilkes said, “One of the biggest factors is that every person on this team takes ownership in the Safety Program, they watch out for each other, they come to work every morning with the goal that all of them are going to go home safe that evening.” He added that the key to that is speaking up if you see an issue and not being afraid to ask for what you need to perform the job safely. It is always holding yourself and others accountable for safety. That mutual accountability is never taken offensively; it is, instead, appreciated.</p>
<p>Results of/Response to the Program</p>	<p>In 2022 CNG hit a safety milestone of 6 years with no recordable injuries.</p>
<p>Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”</p>	<p>The CNG Safety Milestone is celebrated company-wide as an example of excellence in safety, a core value that is held of utmost importance and a substantial part of Summit’s Corporate Scorecard. In addition, this milestone reinforces the positive outcome of a Speak Up and Safety-First Culture so that team members practice it daily on the job.</p>
<p>Supporting Documents</p>	<p>Logo Supporting document.</p>
<p>SGA Membership Category</p>	<p>Distribution</p>

<p>Nomination SH-2</p>	
<p>SGA Member Company Name</p>	<p>Atmos Energy</p>

Program Name	<i>First Responder Natural Gas Workshop</i>
Program Description	<p>The safety of Atmos Energy’s employees, communities and our natural gas system has always been our highest priority, and our first responders are an integral part of keeping our communities safe. At the Charles K. Vaughan Center (CKV), our state-of-the-art training facility in Plano, Texas, we host training and other events for employees, first responders, community officials, and school groups to promote natural gas safety.</p> <p>Our First Responder Natural Gas Workshop, a.k.a. training sessions developed by the CKV training team for each of our divisions to utilize, provides emergency response teams with detailed information and procedures to safely work around natural gas and carbon monoxide. The CKV training team also worked with a local college to have the Workshop eligible for continuing education credits for first responders.</p> <p>The Workshop includes two hours of classroom discussion that covers the properties of natural gas to determine onsite actions needed during an emergency, as well as safety procedures to protect first responders and ways the departments can work in tandem with our employees. Several demonstrations and short, relevant videos are also incorporated. For example, Workshop instructors bring examples of our pipe, meter sets, excess flow valves and other items to illustrate our system and its properties. Videos show a tour of the specially built Flow Lab training area at the CKV, clips of the New London tragedy to explain why natural gas is odorized, and various employee training scenarios at the CKV to give first responders an idea of our training process.</p>
Results of/Response to the Program	<p>Since the program began in 2014, our employees across the enterprise have conducted over 500 workshops involving more than 9,000 first responders. Our First Responder Natural Gas Workshop gives participants the opportunity to discuss and draw out their responses to real-world ICS scenarios. This not only serves as an engaging review of the information covered in the Workshop, but it also gives first responders a means to share what they’re experiencing in the field. This further supports communication and coordination to improve local Atmos Energy emergency response team interactions.</p>
Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”	<p>The First Responder Natural Gas Workshop not only provides useful information on natural gas safety and emergency response, but the relationships and communication networks developed during these training courses enhance the safety of our communities for years to come.</p>
Supporting Documents	Click to view.

SGA Membership Category	Distribution
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Nomination SH-3	
SGA Member Company Name	Southern Company Gas
Program Name	<i>Transforming a Culture of Safety, Health & Well-being through Innovative Critical Risk Management & Southern Lifestyle</i>
Program Description	<p><u>Note: Word document attached with program description, results, and contributions.</u></p> <p>Southern Company Gas (GAS) developed its Critical Risk Management Education & Awareness Program in response to employee feedback from its 2017 Safety Culture survey, which garnered a 90 percent participation rate. In their survey responses, employees made clear that they wanted a stronger focus on critical risks as an important element of GAS’s safety strategy.</p> <p>Critical Risk Management (CRM) is a process of reducing the risk of fatalities or life-altering injuries by ensuring critical controls are in place and effective during critical risk activities. CRM is part of the larger Safety and Health Management System (SHMS) at GAS, which provides a systematic, proactive approach to safety.</p> <p>In 2017, GAS began mapping the blueprint for years of employee partnerships, vigilance for critical risk management and culture advancement. Employees at all levels became empowered to make decisions, share concerns and best practices and focus on reducing risks. Today, SHMS is the centerpiece of the company’s relentless efforts to constantly improve safety, close performance gaps and achieve excellence.</p> <p>Incident reporting was strongly encouraged throughout the company. It was not about achieving zero injuries. It was about everyone doing everything possible to prevent life-changing, serious injuries to themselves and others. When events do occur, we ensure that we document and communicate lessons learned across the enterprise with the goal of decreasing the chance of reoccurrence.</p> <p>From the C-suite to the front line, GAS employees have worked together for the past five years to advance the culture by</p>

	<p>focusing on proactive safety measures, safety management systems and critical risk management.</p> <p>Every safety initiative and action implemented since 2018 has aligned with these focus areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify/Improve risk competence. 2. Continue to further maturity as a learning organization. 3. Continuous process improvement/compliance. <p>GAS’s safety programs have been fully complimented by well-being programs and benefits aimed at promoting healthier employee lifestyles, with focused attention to 1) soft-tissue injury prevention and 2) mental health and well-being. In 2021-2022 there were opportunities to integrate our Critical Risk Management program with our Southern Lifestyle program, a comprehensive Health & Well-being program to benefit employees on and off the job. By providing robust proactive and support well-being programs to employees and their families, employees can remain focused on safely working. (See supporting PowerPoint for information on Well-being initiatives at GAS).</p>
<p>Results of/Response to the Program</p>	<p><u>Note: See attached PowerPoint presentation.</u></p> <p>Following are some key results of the purposeful, rigorous transformation of the GAS safety culture over the past five years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A culture transformed: The GAS safety culture has never been stronger and hundreds of employees from across its five-state service territory are actively involved with initiatives to reduce serious injuries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o From 2016 to 2022, the reported number of first aid incidents reported (lower-level, minor injuries) increased 230%. This increase does not reflect a drastic increase in injuries but an increased reporting of low-level injuries. This change in culture allows for earlier treatment which often prevents the later onset of more serious injuries. o Serious injuries (more significant, potentially life-changing injuries) have fallen 67% from 2016. This is indicative of the confidence and trust that has grown throughout the workforce to speak up if employees see or experience something unsafe. • Slip/Trip/Fall injuries: Within one year of implementing the Fall Arrest CRM team, the number of slip/trip/fall recordable injuries decreased 21%. • Investing in people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o GAS expanded the number of dedicated safety personnel in 2020 across the enterprise (~10 new positions) to provide in-field safety support. This helped accelerate the safety culture and build confidence in reporting injuries. o In 2021, then-CEO Kim Greene established the Living Our Values Employee Recognition Program as an additional way

	<p>to recognize employees for Safety Excellence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious injury performance: In 2021, GAS had its best year ever with one serious injury which was not associated with a critical risk. • DART: GAS earned the AGA Industry Leader Accident Prevention Award for reducing serious injuries and achieving one of the lowest DART rates nationwide for the past five years through 2021. <p>Southern Company Gas implemented the following critical risk safety initiatives between 2018–2022:</p> <p>2018</p> <p>Critical Risk Management Teams</p> <p>In 2018, GAS formed eight cross-functional Critical Risk Management teams (CRM), led by supervisors and employees in Field Operations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arc Flash/Electrical Contact 2. Fire or Explosion 3. Release or Exposure to A) Energy/Heat/Pressure B) Chemicals 4. Trenching or Excavation 5. Fall or Fall Arrest/Lack of Protection 6. Collision/Loss of Control 7. Line of Fire/Work Area Protection 8. Mobile Equipment <p>The CRM teams conducted 500+ field observations to identify hazards and critical risks in gas utility work that can cause serious injuries, as supervisors and field employees verified the critical controls in place to support the critical risk areas.</p> <p>Uniting thousands of employees through FUEL employee communication app</p> <p>At Southern Company Gas, 4,300+ employees provide service to 4.2 million natural gas utility customers across five states. In 2018, then-CEO Kim Greene made a significant enterprise communications investment in a new employee communications app called FUEL. For the past five years, FUEL has played an integral role in uniting and engaging 4,300+ employees real-time, any time, any place.</p> <p>2019</p> <p>Critical Risk Management Guide</p> <p>The CRM teams gained valuable feedback from the field verifications and insights into improving underperforming controls. To share their learning with employees and influence safer behavior, CRM teams collaborated for more than a year to develop and publish the Critical Risk Management Guide.</p> <p>2020</p> <p>Critical Risk Teams expanded from eight to 10:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Hoisted Loads (added in 2020) 10. Confined Space (added in 2020) <p>Note: Line of Fire merged with Work Area Protection team in 2020</p>
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	<p>2021</p> <p>Safety and CRM Teams conducted four successful pilots to prevent serious injuries:</p> <p>Slip, Trip & Fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Platforms for Attic Safety • Tool Backpacks • Head Lamps <p>Struck By/Against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE: Women work gloves • Inflatable shoring devices for trenching <p>Lifting/Pulling/Pushing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional Movement Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Warming up and proper stretching of muscles, proper body mechanics, proper ergonomics. o Partner vendors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletico® BIOKINETIX® <p>Tooling Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tooling Innovation Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pilot innovative tools to prevent injuries. o New Meter Set Assembly (MSA). <p>In 2021, the Fall Arrest team took on additional responsibilities to address Slips, Trips, and Falls, the No. 1 Cause of Injuries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched Three is Key campaign – team created keychains, so employees remember the three keys of slips, trips and falls (vehicle, ladder, stairwell safety). • Created a week’s worth of learning videos about critical risks for the workforce. • Conducted a fall prevention campaign – Plan, Provide and Train. • Kicked off a 10-week series of safety videos to keep employees focused on preventing slips, trips and falls – videos posted to the FUEL employee communications mobile app. <p>2022-2023</p> <p>10 CRM Teams Make 23 Videos - share with thousands of employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 200 colleagues worked together through 2022 into 2023 to record a total of 23 videos and shared them across the company to continue increasing awareness of the critical risks our employees face on the job every day. <p>Expanding Functional Movement and Health & Well-being Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After experiencing an uptick in soft tissue injuries in 2022, the company now is expanding a proactive functional movement program to help prevent additional soft tissue injuries by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Educating employees of the risks and causes of musculoskeletal (soft tissue) injuries. 2) Building a foundation of health and well-being to promote functional movement at home, with families, during extra-curricular activities, sports, house and lawn maintenance,
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	etc.
<p>Contribution to “Connecting People, Ideas & Information”</p>	<p>Pilots Implemented Company-Wide Many safety initiatives over the past five years have been or are now being replicated and broadened across Southern Company Gas, including several successful pilots to prevent serious injuries. These pilots and initiatives have united thousands of Southern Company Gas employees and enabled us all to rally around safety.</p> <p>A Culture of Safety & Well-being Transformed Trust, learning and willingness to share would be the best words to describe the Safety & Well-being culture of Southern Company Gas today. Building trust and a collective focus on learning are the change elements that have accelerated the culture to its healthy state. Those elements make employees feel confident and comfortable speaking up about safety issues. Employees have adopted an accountability mindset for reporting incidents. Through “Southern Lifestyle” – our foundational Health & Well-being program we are integrating physical, emotional, and mental health in all aspects of our culture.</p> <p>Employee engagement across all safety initiatives up significantly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Risk Management team members: 148 • Event Learning team members: 160 • New Risk Register team members: 28 <p>Strong union partnerships One of the most enabling aspects of the change in Safety & Well-being culture has been the collaborative partnership the company shares with labor unions that represent its employees. No matter what is happening in the company at any given time, Safety & Well-being are part of a common foundation for all GAS employees, regardless of position. Unions are fully engaged in all safety initiatives, discussions, and committee work. GAS is proud of the working relationship it shares with union partners to prevent workplace hazards and fatalities and develop effective safety and health programs.</p> <p>Living Our Values Employee Recognition Program The Living Our Values Employee Recognition Program began in 2017. Then-CEO Kim Green and the Safety team expanded the program to acknowledge enterprise Safety Excellence in 2021.</p> <p>Southern Lifestyle Health & Well-being Program Southern Lifestyle, a comprehensive and foundational health and well-being program was introduced to GAS employees about 2017. In 2021-2022 more emphasis was placed on Mental Health</p>

	<p>and Function Movement. Our company recognizes that employee’s mental and emotional health is at the foundation of their performance and must be addressed so all employees can be the “best versions of themselves”. Functional Movement is the second focus well-being area due to the increasing number of soft-tissue injuries. Based on these emphasis programs, GAS employees are earning annually \$300,000+ toward their health care expenditures. Moving forward into 2023, both Mental Health and Functional Movement programs are top focus areas for GAS employees. This is a Win-Win for the company and employees!</p> <p>Thank you for considering Southern Company Gas for this prestigious award! With Safety & Health - Nick Slappy, VP - Safety & Resource Management, Southern Company Gas</p>
<p>SGA Membership Category</p>	<p>Distribution</p>