

2026 SGA Awards: Meritorious Action Honorees



Honoree: Jason Alaniz

Company: CPS Energy

Briefly describe what happened.

Jason Alaniz has been serving as the CPS Energy Green Hat for Customer Metering Services and the Grid Support Safety Circuit Team. Jason is dedicated not only to the safety of his team members but also to the Safety and Wellbeing of our customers throughout San Antonio, TX.

Recently, Jason witnessed a customer's ladder make contact with an overhead primary line. Upon seeing this, he immediately took action to assist the customer. Below is his firsthand incident report statement:

"While attempting to navigate to an alley to read an unreachable gas meter for a periodic read at 331 Hollenbeck that was located at the back of the home, I happened to drive from W Southcross Blvd to take a right on Quintana Rd to get a clear path to that alley. It was at that moment I had slowed down as I noticed an 18-wheeler being unloaded and as I looked left out of my driver side window, I not only heard a loud boom, but I saw a brief fireball followed by a small plume of smoke."

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Below is his firsthand incident report statement:

"I immediately turned my service vehicle around safely to evaluate the scene and assist with the situation if needed. At the time of the safe turnaround, another boom was heard, and I witnessed a ladder make contact with a second primary wire before the ladder fell to the ground. Upon arriving safely, I immediately noticed a male lying on the ground and appeared to be injured. I was able to verify that he was indeed injured, I then assisted the man and moved him to a safer location and out of harm's way. I was the only one on scene at ground level at the time as the man's coworkers were on the roof of the building and were not able to get to ground level immediately. As I was dragging the man, another worker appeared, and I asked him for assistance. Once the individual was out of harm's way, others were available to assist but were a little shocked at what had occurred. Once I got a response from the injured individual, I gave instructions to them on how to do CPR chest compressions only and gave that directive to start that process. While that process was occurring, I proceeded to clear the scene and made sure

that it was in the clear and that no one else could get harmed. As I went back to possibly relieve the individual performing CPR chest compressions, I heard the emergency vehicle sirens, so I then proceeded to direct the emergency responders to the injured man's location. All while clearing the scene and directing the emergency responders, I was already on the phone the System Operator requesting a crew to respond to an outage as a result of primary wires down and an injury possible fatality event.

Once the CPS Energy crews arrived and the man had been tended to by EMS, I proceeded to interview any possible witnesses that may have seen something, and this was what I was told: The man was repositioning his ladder when a gust of wind made him lose his balance on uneven terrain. It was at that point that his ladder made contact with the first of the primary wires, causing the man to immediately collapse and his ladder landing next to him. The man was not on the ladder at the time; he was on the ground holding the ladder with his bare hands. The man's hard hat and ball cap flew off of him as well as his tools that he had on him had scattered.

In response, a total of approximately eight heavy-duty bucket trucks arrived on the scene to further secure the area within minutes. Shortly after that scene was secured and the correct personnel were notified, I called my management team to report what I had witnessed and what had occurred during the event."

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Because of Jason's rapid intervention, the man survived. His steady leadership and decisive actions protected life and guided an organized, safe response during a high-risk emergency.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Jason is a true hero and took swift and courageous action to save a life. He also followed our safety guidelines expertly to ensure his own safety and the safety of others.



Honoree: Atlanta Gas Light

Briefly describe what happened.

Hurricane Helene Emergency Community Response Efforts, 9/2024

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

During the storm and throughout the recovery period, their team responded to over 1,000 gas-related emergency calls in the first 5 days, conducting nearly 700 damage repairs and inspecting and securing over a thousand locations to eliminate potential public-safety hazards.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Zero preventable injuries related to gas-system impacts during the event, timely mitigation of all identified gas hazards following Hurricane Helene, Restoration efforts completed safely and efficiently, enabling communities to recover faster

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Atlanta Gas Light's Hurricane Helene response reflects the highest standards of professionalism, teamwork, and service. The swift action, technical excellence, and personal sacrifices made by employees exemplify the intent of the Meritorious Action Award, making Atlanta Gas Light highly deserving of this recognition.



Honoree: Anselmo Borunda

Company: Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline

Briefly describe what happened.

While performing routine pipeline marker replacement in a remote rural area during extremely hot weather, Anselmo Borunda encountered an elderly woman lying on the ground near her home. She had been unable to get up for approximately an hour and had no nearby assistance.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Anselmo immediately approached the individual, assessed her condition, and offered assistance. He helped her safely to her walker and then into a chair, ensuring she was seated, stable, and able to recover before continuing his assigned duties.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

The elderly woman was safely assisted off the ground and out of the extreme heat, reducing the risk of serious heat-related medical complications. She was stabilized and expressed gratitude for the help provided.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Anselmo demonstrated situational awareness, compassion, and personal responsibility by intervening without hesitation in a potentially life-threatening situation. His actions went beyond normal job duties and reflected a strong commitment to safety, community well-being, and company values.



Honorees: Lucas Cypert, Damien Griffith

Company: ONE Gas

Briefly describe what happened.

Oklahoma Natural Gas senior gas tech Lucas Cypert and gas tech trainee Damien Griffith were dispatched to a residence in Jenks, Oklahoma, to complete an aboveground natural gas leak repair. When they arrived and attempted to notify the customer, they noticed the front door was inaccessible. After ringing the doorbell, they heard faint tapping from a nearby window and discovered an elderly woman inside the home who appeared injured and unable to reach the door.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Lucas immediately attempted to communicate with the customer through the window and was able to hear her say that her leg was hurt and that she needed help. Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, Lucas promptly called 911 and calmly provided a detailed description to emergency responders. Lucas and Damien remained on site until the local fire department and EMSA arrived and gained entry to the home to assist the customer.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Because of Lucas and Damien's awareness and quick response, emergency personnel were able to reach the customer quickly. Firefighters gained forced entry to the home, allowing EMSA to provide medical care. The customer was transported to the hospital for treatment, preventing further harm and potentially saving her life.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

This act stands out because Lucas and Damien went beyond their assigned task by remaining alert, compassionate and responsive to an unexpected emergency. Their willingness to act immediately, prioritize the customer's safety and involve emergency services demonstrates exceptional judgment and a deep commitment to ONE Gas' Core Value of Safety.



Honorees: Antwon Green, Donovan Green, and Don Harris

Company: Southeast Connections

Briefly describe what happened.

On a project in Richmond, Virginia, a babysitter of an 18-month-old child was walking near the jobsite when the child suddenly went into a seizure. The child became limp and unresponsive, and the babysitter, unfamiliar with the situation, was in distress and unsure how to respond.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Don Harris and his crew immediately stepped in to assist. Drawing from personal experience with seizures, Don carefully took the child into the crew truck to help stabilize her. They worked to keep the child calm and cool by placing ice on her back, while another crew member quickly contacted emergency medical services. The crew shut down the jobsite and remained fully focused on the child's condition until paramedics arrived.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

The child began to recover before EMS arrived, regaining consciousness and returning to a normal state. The crew's quick response and calm decision-making provided critical support during a high-stress situation. The babysitter was so moved by their actions that she later left a voicemail expressing her gratitude and appreciation for the care and compassion shown to the child.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

This act stands out because the crew went beyond their job responsibilities to assist a member of the public in a life-threatening situation. Don Harris used personal experience to guide his response, demonstrating both technical awareness and compassion. The team's decision to stop work, prioritize the emergency, and provide hands-on care reflects strong leadership, situational awareness, and genuine concern for others.



Honorees: Bubba Jackson, Chris Worrell

Company: Spire

Briefly describe what happened.

On January 28, 2026, while responding to an odor complaint at a home in Anniston, Alabama, Spire Service Mechanic Bubba Jackson discovered that the homeowner, Ms. Patricia, was using her natural gas range to heat her home during the frigid temperatures.

This caused the range to overheat, creating a potentially dangerous situation. This was the customer's only source of heat since her electric heat pump stopped working.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

For the safety of the customer, Bubba was required to danger-tag the appliance and leave it off. With winter temperatures dropping well below freezing, Bubba turned to his co-workers to help find a heating solution for this elderly customer. They pooled their own money together to purchase a natural gas space heater. He enlisted the help of Spire Dual Role Mechanic Chris Worrell to install the new natural gas space heater in the customer's home.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Bubba's quick reaction in danger-tagging the stove to keep the customer from using it as a home heating source prevented a potentially dangerous situation. The group's generosity and dedication to safely and reliably serving our customers, allowed her to stay warm and continue to use her stove for cooking. The customer was so moved by their kindness that it brought her to tears.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Bubba and Chris went above and beyond their roles to find a way to keep this customer warm and safe. By rallying their co-workers to donate money for a new space heater, they embodied Spire's core values of safety and integrity.



Honoree: Johnathan Osborne

Company: Miller Pipeline

Briefly describe what happened.

On 9/11/25 at Karl Rd in Columbus, Ohio, Kyle McNichols' crew was walking down the sidewalk on the road they were working on and a homeowner rushed from his home struggling to speak and pointing to his throat. Johnathan sprung into action to help.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

It was very apparent the homeowner was choking. The new laborer, Johnathan Osborne, with less than 90 days at Miller Pipeline, rushed to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

He successfully dislodged the stuck food and saved the homeowner.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Johnathan upheld Miller's core values and jumped into action to help someone in need with the skills he had, as a new employee no less.



Honoree: Randall Pugh

Company: Atmos Energy

Briefly describe what happened.

During a summer day near Loop 561 in Trumbull, Texas, Randall Pugh came upon a serious single-vehicle accident where a driver was trapped inside a car after striking a tree. The situation was critical, with the vehicle at risk of catching fire.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Randy quickly evaluated the scene and took immediate action despite the potential for fire and other hazards. He approached the wrecked vehicle, navigated unsafe conditions, and successfully freed the trapped driver. He then moved the individual to a safe distance just moments before the vehicle ignited, showing decisive action and personal courage.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Because of Randy's swift response, the driver was safely removed before the vehicle caught fire, avoiding what could have been a fatal outcome. His actions secured the individual's survival and prevented serious injury or loss of life.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Randy's actions stand out due to the extreme urgency and danger of the situation. He acted instinctively and selflessly, placing another person's life above his own safety. The timing of the rescue just before the vehicle ignited highlights the critical impact of his bravery and sound judgement.



Honoree: Charley Richardson

Company: Spire

Briefly describe what happened.

As Charley Richardson, a Spire civic improvement inspector in southwest Missouri, was nearing the end of his workday on March 10, he was driving his work truck on a two-lane highway near Aurora. He noticed a car in the distance heading in the same direction and

weaving erratically.

As he came over a hill, Charley saw the car veer into the left lane and suddenly back to the right lane, then onto the right shoulder where it struck a woman who was walking her dogs. Shocked by what he'd just witnessed, Charley pulled over where the woman had been hit and jumped out expecting the worst.

Charley exited his vehicle and noticed the car that struck the woman had pulled over and the driver was getting out. Charley instructed the driver to stay put and asked for his car keys to prevent him from leaving. The driver refused to hand over his keys and started to walk back to where the incident occurred.

As Charley ran toward the woman who was laying on the ground about 10 feet off the roadway, he called 911 to report the incident. The 911 operator connected Charley with paramedics on a three-way call so they could provide instructions on how to assess the woman's condition and provide help.

To Charley's surprise, the woman was still conscious and was trying to stand up. She complained of back pain and was asking Charley to call her father and her boyfriend. As Charley was assisting her, he noticed blood coming from her mouth. At the direction of the paramedic on the phone, he checked to see if she had any visible injuries to her mouth and found none. They concluded she might have internal bleeding and Charley instructed her to lay back down.

Charley noticed the driver of the car start to head back to his vehicle as all of this was taking place and yelled to tell him to stay where he was, afraid that he might try to leave the scene. Charley also attempted to flag down other passing vehicles to see if they could assist. Unfortunately, no one stopped.

It was several minutes before a highway patrol vehicle arrived on scene. The state trooper assisted Charley in securing the driver and tending to the injured woman. Several other police

arrived right behind and took over the scene. The paramedics arrived shortly after and took the woman to the emergency room.

Charley says he reacted the only way he knew how. "I couldn't believe what I witnessed," he said. "I knew I had to help, and I was frustrated that no one else would stop to do the same. But ultimately, I'm glad the woman wasn't more seriously injured or killed, and I'm glad the guy who did this didn't get away."

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Charley exemplified Spire's values of safety and integrity in his response. In stopping to assist, he placed the well-being and safety of the injured woman first. He did what was right in contacting emergency services and speaking with paramedics by phone to assess the victim and care for her until first responders could arrive. He also attempted to flag down passing cars for additional assistance, though none stopped. Additionally, Charley kept watch on the driver of the vehicle to ensure he did not leave the scene.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

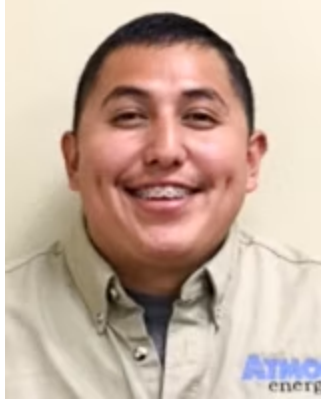
The driver of the vehicle that struck the woman was taken into custody under suspicion of DUI. After several days in the hospital, the woman was released and is recovering from her injuries. She and her boyfriend called Charley shortly after her release to thank him for what he did to assist her and to make sure the driver was taken into custody.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Charley was the only person to stop and assist despite other vehicles passing, demonstrating a high level of integrity and care for members of the community he serves. He quickly and carefully assessed the situation, called for help, cared for the victim and prevented the driver from fleeing the scene. If not for Charley's immediate actions, the woman's situation could have been much worse.

This type of action to help members of the community is not at all unusual for Charley. In December of 2023, Charley came across an elderly woman who had run her car off a rural highway into a ravine during a snowstorm. He helped get her car back on the road so she could celebrate Christmas with her son's family. His story was featured here:

<https://www.aga.org/spire-employee-charley-richardson-saves-christmas/>



Honoree: Ram Rodriguez

Company: Atmos Energy

Briefly describe what happened.

In the early hours of July 2025, a historic flash flood in Kerr County, Texas caused the Guadalupe River to surge from 3 feet to nearly 30 feet in just 45 minutes. Rising waters quickly engulfed neighborhoods, trapping residents in their homes, including two of Ram Rodriguez's neighbors.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

After waking to rapidly rising floodwaters surrounding his home, Ram immediately assessed the danger and checked on his neighbors, Joe and Lily, who were trapped in their garage. Despite hazardous, fast-moving water, he forced entry through a side door and used tow straps to safely secure and carry both individuals on with Parkinson's to higher ground. He acted decisively under pressure, prioritizing their safety while putting himself at personal risk.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Ram successfully rescued both individuals from a life-threatening situation, preventing potential injury or loss of life. He then sheltered 12 displaced individuals in his home and continued supporting his community in the aftermath by clearing debris and assisting neighbors as they began recovery efforts.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

This act stands out due to the immediacy of the danger, the personal risk involved, and Ram's selfless decision to prioritize others over his own safety. His quick thinking, physical action in extreme conditions, and continued service beyond the initial rescue demonstrate exceptional courage, compassion, and leadership in a crisis.



Honoree: Marco Solis

Company: Atmos Energy

Briefly describe what happened.

On the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 29, Marco Solis was carrying out his responsibilities as a member of the Pipeline Control team in Lubbock, Texas. Marco was placing tags on doors ahead of scheduled meter changes, encouraging customers to call and set up appointments. That afternoon, a customer named Mr. Wesley contacted Marco to arrange a meter replacement for the following Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Marco arrived on time and completed the meter replacement as scheduled on Sept. 2. When he attempted to restore service, he received no answer at the door or by phone. Following company protocol, Marco left the meter off, locked and blinded, and continued on to his next assignment.

Two days later, Marco received a call from Mr. Wesley's number. The call was unusual – at first there was only silence, but Marco could hear faint shuffling in the background. He continued to listen patiently for several minutes until a weak, barely audible voice said, "Hello?" Recognizing Mr. Wesley's voice, Marco gently asked if he was all right and how he could help. Mr. Wesley sounded confused and disoriented, unsure of where he was, but he soon expressed immense relief, saying, "Thank God!" and explained that he needed help. Marco carefully clarified that he was with the gas company and asked what specific assistance was needed. Mr. Wesley responded by asking if Marco could get into his house to help him, indicating he was unable to get to the door himself. Understanding the urgency of the situation, Marco reassured Mr. Wesley that he would find a way to get help immediately. Using account records, Marco verified the address and phone number to ensure emergency responders could be directed promptly.

Knowing the potential seriousness of the situation, Marco contacted his teammate, Randall Durrett, and together they returned to Mr. Wesley's residence. After receiving no response at the door, Marco immediately called 911. Lubbock Fire Rescue and the Lubbock Police Department arrived quickly. Hearing faint sounds inside the apartment, first responders determined a forced entry was needed and found Mr. Wesley lying on the floor. It was discovered that Mr. Wesley had fallen over Labor Day weekend and had been unable to reach his phone, taking two days to crawl to it and make the call for help.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Marco recognized distress during a silent call, stayed engaged until he confirmed the issue, verified the address, and quickly coordinated with teammate Randal Durrett. He returned to the residence, called 911, and remained on-site as responders forced entry to reach the customer.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Due to Marco's determination, compassion, and willingness to remain engaged during a confusing distress call. Mr. Wesley was rescued and quickly transported to the hospital.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

Marco demonstrated exceptional awareness, empathy, and initiative by treating an ambiguous call as an emergency. His persistence, quick decision-making, and willingness to act beyond his role along with continued follow-up care reflect a deeply selfless and human-centered response.



Honoree: Will Watson

Company: Atmos Energy

Briefly describe what happened.

On February 23, 2026, in Tupelo, Mississippi, Will Watson observed a toddler wearing only a diaper wandering into traffic on Lawndale Drive near Mockingbird Lane. The child was unsupervised and in immediate danger of being struck by oncoming vehicles.

What action did the nominee(s) take in response?

Will reacted instantly by stopping his vehicle, activating hazard lights and strobes to warn approaching traffic, and safely retrieving the child from the roadway. He coordinated with a nearby resident to ensure the toddler was secure, then took additional initiative to help locate the child's home and reunite him with his family.

What was the outcome or result of their actions?

Will's swift intervention removed the child from immediate danger and prevented a potentially life-threatening accident. His actions led to the safe reunification of the toddler with his family, providing reassurance and preventing what could have been a tragic outcome.

What makes this act stand out as meritorious?

This act stands out due to Will's immediate recognition of danger and decisive response in a high-risk situation. His willingness to intervene, manage traffic risk, and remain engaged until the child was safely reunited demonstrates exceptional responsibility, situational awareness, and genuine care for others.