



2026 SGA Awards Finalists: Safety & Health

Entry: "Safety Sundays" at the Children's Museum of St. Tammany

Company: Atmos Energy

What challenge was this project or initiative created to solve?

Limited access to engaging, hands-on safety education for children and families created an opportunity to extend Atmos Energy's safety culture into the community through interactive, STEM-based learning experiences that make safety concepts accessible, memorable, and actionable beyond the workplace.

What approach or solution did your team implement?

The exhibit was designed as an innovative approach to safety education, combining interactive learning with real-world applications to engage children and families. By working with and supporting the monthlong exhibit, Atmos Energy helped provide a space where safety concepts could be explored in a fun, memorable, and accessible way.

The initiative featured a variety of hands-on exhibits focused on curiosity, problem-solving, and safe decision-making. By integrating STEM-based activities with safety messaging, the program encouraged children to think critically about their environment while developing an understanding of personal and community safety.

Atmos Energy's involvement worked so that the exhibit was not only educational but also aligned with broader safety goals. Through active participation and collaboration with community partners, Atmos reinforced key safety principles while supporting workforce development by inspiring future generations to prioritize safety in all aspects of life.

What was the result or measurable outcome?

The exhibit made a significant impact by attracting more than 1,600 visitors including children, parents, and other community members. This strong turnout demonstrated a clear demand for engaging, community-based safety education and highlighted the effectiveness of interactive learning environments.

The exhibit generated high levels of participation and enthusiasm, with one of the final event days drawing 99 visitors — making it one of the museum's best attendance days of the whole

summer. Feedback from the museum leadership praised consistent engagement throughout the month and the positive impact it made on both attendance and awareness of safety practices.

Through this initiative, Atmos Energy successfully extended its deeply rooted safety culture beyond the workplace and into the community. By educating children and families in an engaging environment, the program helped instill lifelong safety habits and reinforced the importance of workforce and public safety.

As Atmos Energy continues to prioritize safety in all aspects of its operations, initiatives like “Safety Sundays” at the Children’s Museum of St. Tammany demonstrate the company’s commitment to building safer, more informed communities for the future.

How does this work reflect SGA’s mission to Share, Grow, and Advance the natural gas industry?

Atmos Energy’s vision is to be the safest provider of natural gas services. Extending this commitment to safety beyond daily operations, Atmos Energy partnered with the Children’s Museum of St. Tammany in Mandeville, La., and other local organizations to promote safety education through an interactive, hands-on exhibit designed for children and families.

In June 2025, Atmos Energy teammates helped celebrate National Safety Month by sponsoring and actively participating in the “Safety Sunday” series of events. This initiative connected industry expertise with community engagement, offering children a unique opportunity to learn about safety concepts through STEM-based experimental learning. The exhibit featured interactive environments such as a Natural Wonders Gallery with environmental animal-themed displays, a climbing wall promoting physical awareness, and an ARTworks Gallery encouraging creativity in a safe setting.

In partnership with The Safety Place and museum leadership, Atmos Energy helped create an engaging educational experience that emphasized the importance of safety in everyday life. Employees further strengthened this connection by participating in the exhibit, sharing their knowledge, and reinforcing a safety culture that extends from our workplace into the community.



Contributor: Children's Museum of St. Tammany

Entry: ONE Gas Keeps Customers Informed and Safe with Service Restoration Video

Company: ONE Gas

What challenge was this project or initiative created to solve?

Natural gas outages may occur for a variety of reasons, such as a hit line, winter storm or severe weather, and natural gas utilities have a safe and methodical restoration process. However, calls to Customer Service and conversations at homes with customers demonstrated an opportunity to clarify how and when natural gas service is restored after an outage. Natural gas systems are complex compared to other utilities – we do not simply “turn it on” with the flip of a switch. When service is ready to be restored, crews must go door to door to relight natural gas appliances. Service restoration may be delayed if an adult is not present during the relight process, and safety risks increase if the customer attempts to restore service themselves. ONE Gas aimed to provide peace of mind and insights to customers about the safe, timely restoration of their natural gas service with an educational video and dedicated webpage.

What approach or solution did your team implement?

To provide clarity and mitigate risks, a step-by-step video about the natural gas restoration process was created to outline what to expect during an outage and how customers can keep themselves, their families and their communities safe by understanding the work our technicians need to do. The step-by-step video uses engaging narration, simple text, illustrations and animation to explain how natural gas service is safely restored after an outage or shutoff.

When an outage occurs and restoration is underway in an area, the video is posted on social media channels like Facebook and Nextdoor and targeted to the impacted zip code. Social media posts relay important details and updates on the restoration and link to a dedicated web page with the video and safety reminders. The video was also cut down to shorter clips that can be posted to show impacted customers exactly where technicians are in the restoration process: outage, reconnection, completion

What was the result or measurable outcome?

First used in December 2025, the video has been used as needed during service restoration projects in ONE Gas service territories in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The average percentage watched is 71% of the 2-minute and 51-second video, indicating the video is engaging, keeping the viewer's attention through most of the video.

How does this work reflect SGA's mission to Share, Grow, and Advance the natural gas industry?

The purpose of this video is to promote safety and strengthen customer relations by answering service restoration questions in an engaging and informative way. Safety is a Core Value of ONE Gas, a member of the SGA. The efforts of ONE Gas to prioritize safety in all aspects of business uphold integrity and support the advancement of the natural gas industry.



Contributors: Jorge Bolivar, Gail Ellis, Kasey Smith, Jason Logan

Entry: Safety-First Mentoring Program

Company: Summit Utilities, Inc.

What challenge was this project or initiative created to solve?

At Summit Utilities, safety is the centerpiece of our company. As we continue to grow, we recognized an opportunity to further strengthen how safety knowledge is transferred, reinforced, and consistently applied across our workforce.

New and short-service team members face increased exposure to risk as they build experience in the field, and internal data showed a higher rate of injuries and accidents to team members in their first 12 months of service. At the same time, experienced team members hold critical institutional knowledge that must be intentionally shared to maintain a strong safety culture.

Summit identified the need for a structured, scalable approach that would go beyond standard training by embedding safety into daily behaviors, strengthening hazard recognition, and creating consistent, meaningful dialogue around risk across all levels of the organization.

What approach or solution did your team implement?

Summit Utilities developed and launched the Safety-First Mentoring Program, a structured six-month initiative designed to reinforce a safety-first mindset through mentorship. The program pairs field-service team members with experienced, safety-minded mentors selected by Environmental, Health, Safety and Training teams and supported by operations leadership.

The overarching goal of the Program is to foster a safety-first culture that prioritizes the prevention of workplace injuries. This initiative emphasizes hazard recognition and employee safety, ensuring that these principles are integral to daily operations. The Program enhances communication between team members, mentors, and supervisors creating a collaborative environment where safety concerns and solutions are openly shared.

Through monthly one-on-one mentor meetings, regular safety assessments conducted by supervisors and EHS specialists, and participation in Safety First Committee discussions, the program creates a consistent rhythm of engagement and accountability. Check-in conversations encourage open dialogue around near misses, hazard identification, and safe work practices, helping team members build confidence and awareness in real time.

This layered approach integrates coaching into everyday work, transforming safety from a requirement into a shared responsibility and daily practice. It also strengthens collaboration across teams and reinforces expectations through continuous feedback and support.

What was the result or measurable outcome?

The Safety-First Mentoring Program has significantly enhanced Summit's safety culture by fostering a more intentional and consistent approach to onboarding, training, and development for team members. Early results indicate that participants are demonstrating improved hazard recognition, stronger adherence to safety protocols, and greater confidence in identifying and addressing potential risks in the field.

Since the program's implementation, Summit has observed a noticeable reduction in injuries and accidents among new team members, signaling its potential to drive meaningful improvements in safety performance. While the program is still in its early stages, with its first cycle recently completed and 50 team members participating to date, it has already shown promise in creating a safer, more engaged workforce.

The program has also strengthened collaboration between employees, supervisors, and safety teams, while improving consistency in safety expectations across crews and locations. By reinforcing accountability at all levels and establishing a sustainable model for transferring knowledge from experienced team members to new hires, the Safety-First Mentoring Program is laying the foundation for long-term safety excellence at Summit.

How does this work reflect SGA's mission to Share, Grow, and Advance the natural gas industry?

The Safety-First Mentoring Program reflects Summit Utilities' commitment to sharing knowledge, growing our people, and advancing safety across the natural gas industry. By formalizing mentorship and creating a structured framework for safety development, Summit is sharing best practices that can be replicated and scaled.

This initiative fosters continuous learning, strengthens collaboration, and reinforces the idea that safety is a shared responsibility. It advances the industry by investing in people, building strong safety habits early in careers, and ensuring that critical knowledge is transferred in a consistent and meaningful way.



Contributor: Nathan Knell