

SMU CONNECT

SPENCER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

APRIL 2024

Spencer Municipal Utilities Honored with National Award for Outstanding Safety Practices

Spencer Municipal Utilities has earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2023. The utility earned a gold award in the category for utilities with 30,000-59,999 worker-hours of annual worker exposure.

"Our staff along with our safety committee work every day to make sure we are a safe place to work and this award shows safety is a priority for our team," said James Mammen, Safety & Risk Coordinator of Spencer Municipal Utilities.

More than 150 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards for 2023. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records and overall state of their safety programs and culture during 2023. The incidence rate is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2023, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"Spencer Municipal Utilities is proud of its safety record," said Steve Pick, General Manager/CEO of Spencer Municipal Utilities. "This award is a testament to the hard work that goes into ensuring that our team members go home safe to their families every day."

"In our industry, safety has to be top of mind all day every day," said Scott McKenzie, Chair of APPA's Safety Committee and Senior Director of Member Training & Safety at AMP Inc. "These honored utilities have demonstrated a commitment to safety that runs through every aspect of their organizations."

The Safety Awards have been held annually for more than 65 years. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.



Amanda Gloyd

Marketing & Community Relations Manager

Spring is here and we are gearing up for the upcoming construction season. We've been working on replacing existing residential and commercial electric meters with new advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to improve service and information available to customers and we are looking forward to finishing that project this spring.

We also want to remind everyone to be safe in work zones. Be sure to slow down and put away distractions to help keep everyone safe.

Also be sure to let us know if you have new contact information in case need to contact you regarding an upcoming project. If you have a new phone number or email address, be sure to contact our customer service center.



Call or Click Before You Dig

The month of April is "National Safe Digging Month," and it is a great time to talk about Iowa One Call. It is important to contact Iowa One Call either by phone or online prior to doing any digging. Examples of projects that include digging are:

- Planting trees/shrubs
- Installing a fence, addition, deck, garage or outdoor shed
- New driveway
- Installing mailbox or basketball hoop
- Installing a septic system or water drainage system
- Terracing or landscaping

Before contacting Iowa One Call, it is important to mark the proposed excavation area in white so the locators know where to locate the underground utilities. If you need some white flags, stop by our customer service center to get some free of charge. Once the locates are done, there will be various colors of paint

and flags to mark the underground utilities and those colors mean:

- Red**-Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
- Yellow**-Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
- Orange**-Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
- Blue**-Water, irrigation and slurry lines
- Green**-Sewers and drain lines
- Pink**-temporary survey markings
- White**-Proposed excavation
- Purple**- Reclaimed water

Iowa One Call has made it easy with their 8-1-1 number or you can simply call 1-800-292-8989 or click www.iowaonecall.com to schedule locates. Remember to plan ahead as it takes 48 hours for locates to be completed (not counting weekends or holidays).



Time for an AC Tuneup

With warmer weather around the corner, now is the time to make sure your air conditioner will be ready to keep your home cool this summer.



SMU encourages customers to get an annual checkup of their central air conditioner or heat pump in order to make sure it is in good working condition, and the best time to get it checked is before the summer heat officially arrives. During the annual checkup, the technician will check coolant levels and ensure the system is running properly. By making sure the unit is running properly can also help reduce the amount of energy it takes to operate, which can also save money.

SMU offers electric customers a rebate of \$25.00 when you have your AC checked by a heating and cooling professional. For a copy of the rebate form, visit our website at www.smunet.net.

Annual Hydrant Flushing

It is the time of year for our annual hydrant flushing. This is to maintain the over 600 hydrants we have throughout the community of Spencer. We are flushing each one and making sure they are well maintained and ready for use if needed. Watch our website for the area we are flushing. When we are flushing hydrants in your area, you may notice lower water pressure and some slight discoloration. Please contact us if you have any questions as we work on this routine maintenance.



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Spencer Municipal Utilities
520 2nd Avenue East, Suite 1
Spencer, IA 51301
p: 712.580.5800
www.smunet.net

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