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Salisbury Rowan Utilities Receives City Manager's Safety Award for Vehicle Safety for the Third Consecutive Year

Salisbury_North Carolina_March 26 – In 2013, alone, the Salisbury Rowan Utilities (SRU) Systems Maintenance and Meter Services divisions, traversed more than 205,000 miles to safely provide water services to more than 52,000 customers in eight municipalities and unincorporated portions of Rowan County. Earlier this month, the third consecutive year, City Manager Doug Paris awarded these two divisions the City Manager's Safety Award for Vehicle Safety.

Maintaining a water distribution system that safely deploys, approximately nine (9) million gallons of water each day, is no simple feat, in fact, fulfilling the utility's mission of providing customers with high quality water and wastewater services, is quite complex.

The Systems Maintenance Division oversees 437 miles of piping and 3,000 fire hydrants, which require regular monitoring and maintenance. This division maps and maintains an up to date inventory of the utility's entire inventory. Fire hydrant location maps are used by fire department personnel on the scene of active fires and provide accurate detail that assist with providing accurate fire control measures. Additionally, the division also supports fire line maintenance throughout the system that assist with fire suppression through sprinkler systems in commercial buildings.

The ten (10) person Meter Service Division collects data from more than 22,000 meters each and every month, which means that these team members are visiting over 18,500 residents and businesses in a thirty (30) day period. Through snow, sleet, rain or shine, meter readers in this division tackle various obstacles from overgrown grass to aggressive animals on a regular basis as they complete their daily routes.

During his award presentation, Paris noted the professionalism displayed by the men and women in these divisions for their achievement and improvement in the area of vehicular safety over the past several years and credited their continuous dedication to the work they perform.



Paris also mentioned mutual aid assistance during recent weather events, when crews citywide, including these two divisions, worked around the clock clearing roadways and hauling snow in an effort to provide safe travel for citizens.

According to Risk Manager, Richard Kelly, over the last ten years, these divisions have improved their vehicular safety record by reducing their accident rate by 85%, which is a significant achievement for two divisions that cover a wide range of territory.

Kelly states, " There is a great level of exposure to being involved in an accident, particularly in congested or areas of restriction such as less than favorable weather conditions, where Salisbury Rowan Utilities employees are required to work, often operating oversized pieces of equipment in confined spaces."

Mike West, Systems Maintenance Manager for Salisbury Rowan Utilities states, "I'm extremely proud of the men and women in Utility Systems Maintenance and Meter Services winning the City Manager's Vehicle Safety Award for the third consecutive year. They work hard to maintain the utility infrastructure throughout our service district in all weather conditions, day and night."

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs and events, please follow us on Twitter at www.salisburync.gov/twitter.