

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SAFETY PRACTICES

WILLMAR, MN, March 30, 2026 - Willmar Municipal Utilities (WMU) has earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence, Diamond Level for safe operating practices in 2025.

More than 240 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards for 2025. The entrants are placed in accordance with their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records and overall state of their safety programs and culture during 2025. The incidence rate is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2025, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"WMU is grateful to be recognized for our safety culture," said Jeron Smith, General Manager of WMU. "This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our team members to work safely."

"In Public Power, safety excellence isn't achieved by chance. It's earned through unwavering discipline, strong leadership, and a culture where every team member looks out for one another," said Jon Beasley, Chair of APPA's Safety Committee and Vice-President of Electric Cities of GA. "These Safety Award recipients stand as proof that commitment and consistency save lives, strengthen communities, and set the benchmark for our entire industry."

APPA has conducted the Safety Awards annually for more than sixty-eight years. APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.