

GCEC Director Robert Reed Passes Away

We were deeply saddened by the death of Robert Reed in September. He had served on the Graham County Electric Board of Director since 2011. Robert also served on the Southwest Transmission Cooperative Board for four years and Columbus Electric Cooperative Board in New Mexico for seven years.

Robert worked in the copper mining industry with Phelps Dodge Mining and Freeport-McMoRan. During his 35-year career, he held many positions, including design engineer, smelter engineer, operations general foreman, MCE manager and maintenance manager for the North and South American operations. During that time, he lived and worked in Morenci, Playas, New Mexico, Silver City, New Mexico, and Safford.

As an active and dedicated director, Robert had a vast knowledge of the electric industry.

“He was willing to ask pointed questions and not let go until he was satisfied with the answer,” says former GCEC Board President Reuben McBride. “He was willing to compromise if he could see the logic. Robert had a great sense of humor. He was able to laugh at himself and his health problems, no matter their seriousness. He was a big man with a big heart.”

“Robert had the ability to hold management accountable,” says GCEC Board President Dennis Jacob. “His questions were to the point and reasonable, and when answers were given he was professional. I will miss his keen mind and his warm personality.”

Robert was involved in various community activities, including Greenlee County Search and Rescue. He was an Animas School Board member, technical adviser and committee member for New Mexico Boiler Bureau, and committee member for the Hidalgo County Hospital task force.

Whether it was at the cabin in Alpine, camping at Big Lake or relaxing on Mt. Graham, Robert loved the outdoors. He traveled professionally and



Robert Reed served on the Graham County Electric Co-op Board Directors for six years.

for pleasure to various locations around the world, including Chile, Peru, Japan, Poland, Finland, Germany, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii.

Robert graduated from Morenci High School and attended Eastern Arizona College before graduating with a bachelor's degree in engineering from Brigham Young University.

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with his wife, Lynn, six children and 12 grandchildren. Robert will always be a part of our co-op family and he was a good friend to many. We thank his family for lending such a great man to us for so many years.

The GCEC board has appointed Stephen Hooper of Central to complete Robert's term. ■

Graham County Electric Goes to the Fair

Safety demonstrations and raffle highlight event

October always brings fun for everyone at the Graham County Fair. Each year, the co-op provides information, goodies and an electric safety demonstration.

The staff worked hard to educate the public in electric and natural gas safety. The electric safety demonstration discusses electric safety, downed power lines, understanding buried power lines, call before you dig, and other public awareness measures to keep children and parents safe around power lines. New this year were posters that promoted natural gas safety do's and don'ts.

Besides providing safety tips and information, members signed up for a raffle for money toward their co-op bill. This year's winners were James and Judy Pavlacky and John McClaine.

GCEC/GCU also participated in the Graham County Junior Livestock



Above, James Ornelas put on a safety demonstration at the fair, showing the power of electricity.

Auction by donating funds for add-ons to kids' projects. The co-op is committed to supporting the youth in our

community.

Thank you to all those who stopped by our booth. See you next year! ■



House Lighting Contest for GCEC/GCU Members

GCEC/GCU is sponsoring the second annual house lighting contest for our members. To enter, send your name, address and a picture of your lighted house to djunior@gce.coop before December 15, 2017.

For more information, check out the announcement on our Facebook page or call Diane Junion at (928) 485-2451.

Prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively. ■



Apply for Youth Tour Now

It is time for students who want to attend the 2018 Washington Youth Tour to apply. Sponsored by Graham County

Electric, four students will be selected to represent GCEC at the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's youth tour in June 2018. Juniors at Safford High School, Mt. Graham High School, Thatcher High School, Pima High School and Ft. Thomas High School can apply with their high school counselor or at our website, www.gce.coop. The deadline for application and essay is Wednesday, November 8, 2017. ■

Where to Find Us Online

Check us out on additional social media platforms:

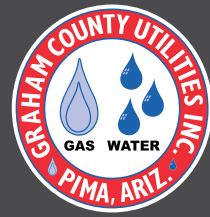
Facebook:

[@GrahamCountyElectricCooperative](https://www.facebook.com/GrahamCountyElectricCooperative)

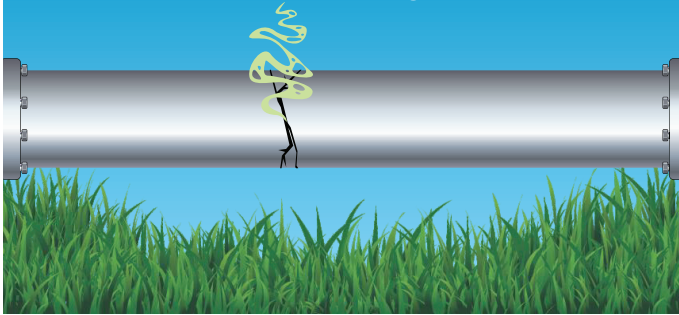
Twitter: [@coop_gce](https://twitter.com/coop_gce)

Instagram: [@grahamcountyelectric](https://www.instagram.com/grahamcountyelectric)

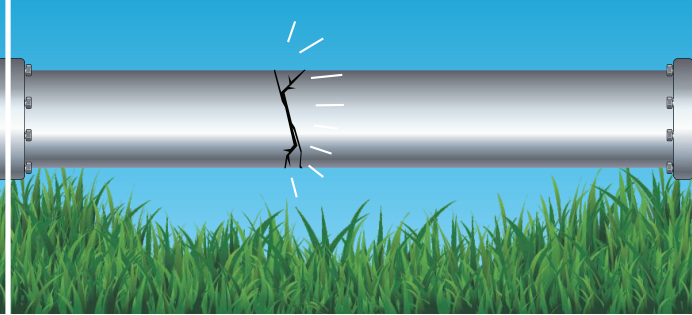
How to Recognize a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak



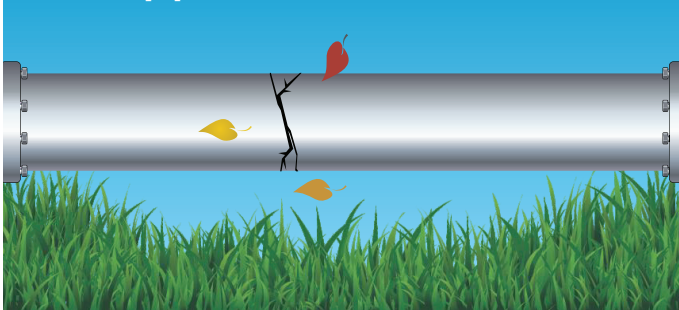
The presence of the rotten egg odor that is added to natural gas



A hissing sound



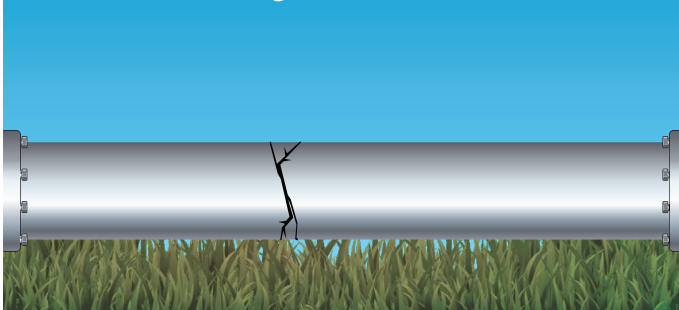
Blowing dirt, grass or leaves near a pipeline



Water bubbling or blowing into the air at a pond, creek or river



A patch of dead grass or vegetation in an otherwise green area



Flames coming out of the ground or burning above the ground



Always call **811** to have utilities marked before performing any excavation

(928) 485-2451

9 W Center St, Pima, AZ 85543

What does natural gas smell like:

- * Natural gas smells like a rotten egg odorant that is added to the natural gas.

What to do if you smell natural gas inside a building:

- * DO leave the building immediately. Take everyone with you (including pets) and leave the exit door open if possible.
- * DO proceed to a safe location where you can no longer smell the odor of natural gas.
- * DO call Graham County Utilities emergency line from a safe location. The natural gas emergency line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Customers should call 928.485.2451.
- * DO call 911 from a safe location outside of the building if you hear or see natural gas blowing.

What to do if you smell natural gas outside a building:

- * DO call Graham County Utilities from a safe location, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you smell or detect natural gas outside or near a meter. 928.485.2451
- * DO call 911 from a location outside of the building if you hear or see natural gas blowing.

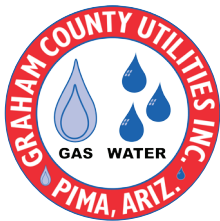
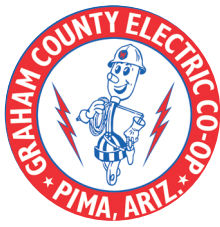
What not to do if you smell natural gas in or outside a building:

- ⊘ DO NOT re-enter the building to open doors and windows.
- ⊘ DO NOT use phones (standard or cellular), computers, appliances, elevators, lamps, garage door openers, or electrical devices inside the building if a smell of natural gas is present.
- ⊘ DO NOT touch electrical outlets, switches or doorbells.
- ⊘ DO NOT smoke or use a lighter, match or other open flame.
- ⊘ DO NOT position or operate vehicles or powered equipment where leaking natural gas may be present.
- ⊘ DO NOT try to re-light a pilot light.
- ⊘ DO NOT e-mail us or post on social media if you smell natural gas or suspect a natural gas leak, PLEASE CALL GCU OR 911.
- ⊘ DO NOT re-enter the home or building until it has been thoroughly inspected by our service technician.

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Manager's Message

Christmas Toy Drive

Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities are pleased to announce the third annual Christmas toy drive and utility assistance program. Last year's toy drive and utility assistance provided much-needed help to seven cooperative members' families with Christmas toys and utility assistance credits. The seven families also received roasted turkeys to supplement their Christmas dinners.

We would like to expand the program to help more members in need this holiday season. We have established the Graham County Electric Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization. This nonprofit was established to administer multiple community-based programs, one of them being our annual toy drive and utility assistance program. All monetary donations should be made to the Graham County Electric Foundation Inc. All donations qualify as tax-deductible contributions.

You may donate toys and/or money at our Pima office to assist less fortunate members with toys for children and to help with utility bills during this holiday season. We need your help identifying members in need of assistance. Please contact Diane Junion or Kim Larkey at (928) 485-2451 for details on how and when to donate, or if you wish to



nominate members who are in need of assistance.

Last year, we had two Santas delivering toys, turkeys and utility vouchers to those families, selected by our committee. Additionally, we had Santa in the Pima office handing out toys and candy to children. This was an activity announced and promoted through our Facebook page, which was well received by our membership.

Stay connected with your cooperative through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more information concerning our community-based

programs.

This program is designed to align with the seventh cooperative principle, which states, "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members." There is much need in the communities we serve. We greatly appreciate the participation and generosity of our member/owners.

The board of directors and employees of Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities sincerely wish you and yours a blessed holiday season.

—Kirk Gray

