

Atmos Energy Urges Natural Gas Safety as Hurricane Season Begins

FLOWOOD, Mississippi – While the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicted a below-normal 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, the agency still forecasts as many as 14 named storms in the coming months. NOAA's recent announcement serves as a timely reminder for Atmos Energy customers to be aware of natural gas safety measures that will keep homes, businesses and families prepared throughout the summer and early fall. Hurricane season begins this week and continues through Nov. 30, and Atmos Energy will constantly monitor the strength and trajectories of tropical storms and hurricanes with the potential to make landfall in the communities we serve.

“Preparing for a weather event is a year-round exercise for Atmos Energy. Employees participate in regular tabletop exercises to clarify roles and responsibilities, and after any severe weather event, we use lessons learned to continuously improve our readiness,” said Bobby Morgan, Atmos Energy vice president of public affairs. “Recent years have shown that hurricanes of any size can pose a threat to life and property, so we want everyone to remember that the best time to plan is now – long before a storm arrives.”

As a reminder, after any severe weather event, please do not use natural gas equipment if it is flooded or damaged without first contacting a qualified service profes-

sional to have it inspected.

Atmos Energy's highly trained service technicians are emergency responders who maintain the safe operation of our natural gas system. If any customer experiences an interruption in service, our skilled technicians will restore service after local conditions are deemed safe. Whether it is a hurricane, flooding, or other severe weather event, please observe these important safety tips:

- If flooding occurs and gas appliances are underwater – including standby generators – do not try to operate the appliances. Instead, contact Atmos Energy or a qualified service professional to conduct a safety inspection.

- Standby generators require available natural gas supply and may be inoperable depending on storm damage in your area.

- Natural gas appliances and generators should be installed and maintained by a qualified professional. For your safety, operate your appliances according to manufacturer instructions.

- During a natural disaster or severe weather event, DO NOT turn off natural gas at the meter even if evacuations are issued.

- If you think you smell gas, immediately leave the affected area, and from a safe distance call 911 or Atmos Energy's 24-hour emergency response line at 866.322.8667.

- NEVER try to find the source of a gas leak.

- DO NOT use a mobile phone or anything that

might cause a spark, such as a generator.

- If a natural gas meter is damaged or a gas line is exposed, immediately leave the area, and call the Atmos Energy 24-hour emergency response line at 866.322.8667.

- Know where your natural gas meter is located. Make sure it's visible and free of trash and debris. Mechanical equipment used to clean up after a storm may damage the meter if it is hidden.

- Natural gas distribution pipelines are mostly underground but can be damaged by uprooted trees and shifted foundations. After a storm, call 811 to have the location of underground utility lines marked, as gas service lines could become tangled.

- If roofing repairs are needed, have a licensed professional certify all roofing repair work and inspect all natural gas vents and piping for proper ventilation. This is imperative to prevent safety risks and keep your appliances operating as designed.

- Atmos Energy customers experiencing a natural gas outage or service interruption should contact the company's customer service number at 888.286.6700. Service will be restored as quickly as possible once the area is deemed safe, and more information about this process is available on our Service Restoration page.

For more severe weather safety information, please visit atmosenergy.com/weathersafety.

HCC Grenada ADN pinning



Holmes County students, l-r: Mackenzie Ward, Lakendra Roby, Mia Lacey.

The Grenada Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) pinning ceremony was held May 13 at the Grenada Campus of Holmes Community College in the Corey Forum.

Following the procession of more than 40 students, the ceremony opened with a prayer by Kasey Avent. Patty Jones welcomed guests and introduced the nursing faculty members who worked with the students throughout the program.

Class reflections were given by Stephanie Oliver, who also recognized classmate URhonda Lewis, who died unexpectedly one month before completion of the program.

Instructor Lovie Rodela announced awards and scholarships. Scholarship

recipients were recognized for the Vint Scholarship, Foundation Scholarship, NMMC Nursing Student Scholarship, Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship, 2025-26 Dr. Chiquita Rockiemore Aspirant Nurse Scholarship, WIOA Scholarship, Grenada Living Center Scholarship, Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, Renasant Bank Completions Scholarship, AmeriCorps Award, ONW Scholarship and Junior Auxiliary of Grenada Scholarship.

Anthony DelGeorge received the Outstanding Student Award. Kandi Harris received the Mississippi School of Nursing Scholarship, presented by Amanda Crawford, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation.

Chelsea Mims and Cherrie Winter presented the Gideon Bible, lamp and pins, while Gwen Lordeon shared reflective thoughts from the students.

The ceremony concluded with students and nurses in attendance reciting the Nightingale Pledge, followed by the benediction and recessional of the ADN Class of 2026.

Members of the class included Shecorey Allen, Alexis Arrington, Kasey Avent, Kristian Avery, Ally Bingham, Jamya Bowdry, Sharnell Bowdry, Stone Bowering, Whitney Brock, Nieshia Butts, Anthony DelGeorge, Linesha Harbin, Kandi Harris, Dynaquia Hemphill, Misty Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Amber Killough, Kamelia Lacy, Chelsea Latham, URhonda Lewis, Karrington Lofton, Karlee Manues, Bralyn McGee, Addison Meeks, Jessica Moore, Victorrio Murray, Stephanie Oliver, Lakendra Roby, Tyara Sledge, Precious Staten, Elliott Stephen, Shamorquisha Stevenson, Tasha Stewart, D'Ariel Sykes, Madison Terrell, Makayla Thompson, Brianna Vaughn, Asia Wade, Mackenzie Ward, Harlee Whitten, Michaela Wilson, Tehya Woods and Alexandria Wright.

Lewis was remembered during the ceremony with a shadow box containing a lamp, pin and Bible in her chair where she would be seated.

The ADN program is a two-year program designed to prepare students to enter the nursing workforce.

A reception with family and friends followed in the lobby of the Corey Forum and featured custom-made nurse-themed cookies.

Treasury, IRS issue guidance on Trump Accounts

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service recently issued a notice announcing upcoming regulations and providing guidance regarding Trump Accounts, which are a new type of individual retirement account (IRA) for eligible children.

Notice 2025-68 PDF provides a general overview of how Trump Accounts work and addresses certain initial questions about creating initial and rollover Trump Accounts, the \$1,000 pilot program contribution, other

contributions – including qualified general contributions and section 128 employer contributions – eligible investments, distributions, reporting, and coordination with the rules applicable to other types of IRAs.

The Working Families Tax Cuts provides for establishing a Trump Account on behalf of every eligible child for whom an election is made, generally by a parent or guardian, and who has not turned age 18 before the end of the calendar year in which the election is made. Contributions to

Trump Accounts cannot be made before July 4, 2026.

Additionally, the federal government will make a one-time \$1,000 pilot program contribution to the Trump Account of each eligible child for whom an election is made, who is a U.S. citizen and who is born on or after Jan. 1, 2025, through Dec. 31, 2028.

Certain governmental entities and charities may also make qualified general contributions to Trump Accounts, if given to a qualified class of account beneficiaries. Other persons are also able

to make contributions up to an aggregate limit of \$5,000 per year. Furthermore, an employer may contribute to a Trump Account of the employee or the employee's dependent up to \$2,500 per year (which counts against the \$5,000 annual limit) under an employer's Trump Account contribution program, and the contribution will not count toward the employee's taxable income. The annual contribution limits are indexed to inflation and will adjust starting after 2027.

The funds in Trump Accounts must be invested in certain mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that track the S&P 500 or another index of primarily American equities.

Amounts generally cannot be withdrawn from Trump Accounts before January 1st of the calendar year in which the child turns 18 years old. After that point, the account

generally is treated as a traditional IRA and generally is subject to the same rules as other traditional IRAs.

This notice addresses certain areas of interest to prospective trustees of Trump Accounts and to those individuals, such as parents and guardians, who would like to establish and/or contribute to these accounts. The notice requests comments on numerous issues related to Trump Accounts.

The IRS is posting a draft version of Form 4547, Trump Account Election(s) to Draft tax forms. When final, the new form can be used to establish a Trump Account and to enroll in the pilot program.

The IRS continues to provide updates and additional information related to the tax benefits from the Working Families Tax Cuts at IRS.gov.

Please visit trumpaccounts.gov for more information on Trump Accounts.