



**Stoughton Utilities**

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*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

# News Release

## Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **STOUGHTON UTILITIES RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SAFETY RECORD**

Stoughton Utilities is one of 35 community-owned electric utilities in the state to receive a 2013 MEUW Safety Achievement Award for safe working practices during the 2013 calendar year.

In its fourteenth year, the MEUW Safety Achievement Award is a voluntary reporting system that is sponsored by Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), the state association representing Wisconsin's 82 public power communities. The selection criteria for the award is a weighted formula that considers a utility's occupational safety record for the past year, as well as its proactive safety activities, such as conducting employee safety training, developing and maintaining written safety procedures and implementing workplace injury prevention measures.

This is the seventh consecutive year that Stoughton Utilities has received this award.

Award winners were recognized during the MEUW Annual Conference in Manitowoc, June 4-6. Robert Kardasz, Stoughton Utilities Director, accepted the award for Stoughton Utilities. "On behalf of the employees of Stoughton Utilities, we are proud to receive this safety award", said Kardasz. "The employees earned this award and should be commended for their consistent dedication to safety. Our utility is dedicated to safety – it's job number one."

"The MEUW Safety Achievement Award recognizes our member utilities that promote safe work habits, offer regular safety training opportunities to their employees, and who are committed to a safe work environment. These employees perform their jobs in dangerous situations day in and day out, in all weather

conditions. We honor these utilities for establishing a strong safety culture,” said Zachary Bloom, executive director of MEUW.

It takes hard work and commitment from the employees on the job site watching out for one another, following safety rules and safe work practices. It also takes commitment from the utility management and governing board to provide the employees with the equipment they need to do the job safely, the training to maintain or improve their skills, and the knowledge, time, and effort to promote proactive safety practices through regular participation in weekly safety meetings, State of Wisconsin apprenticeship programs, the MEUW Safety Program, seminars, workshops, and other continuing education opportunities.

In April, 2014, Stoughton Utilities was also awarded Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub><sup>®</sup>) status, receiving the Diamond award, the highest possible designation. One of the key categories in determining RP3 status is the utility’s commitment to safety and employee development.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.