



Merced Irrigation District earns national award for electric safety

For Immediate Release: June 4, 2015

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MERCED, CA – Merced Irrigation District has received a top national award for electric safety from the American Public Power Association.

Specifically, MID earned first place among electric utilities of its size for having the most injury-free work-hours in 2014. This earned the District an Award of Excellence for safe operating practices for the year.

“This is a tremendous honor,” said Don Ouchley, MID Deputy General Manager of Energy Resources.

“Every day our employees strive to operate with the highest degree of safety possible. This award is a direct reflection of their commitment to safety on the job and for maintaining safety for the public we serve.”

Kenneth Roberts, chair of the APPA Safety Committee, presented the award to MID on May 18, during the association’s annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference in Sacramento.

“Working day-in and day-out with the power of electricity is not something we take lightly,” he said.

“The recipients of this award understand the essential nature of safety in our line of work. It’s embedded in their work culture.”

According to the APPA, more than 290 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards competition, the highest number of entrants in the history of the program.

Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker hours, and ranked based on the number of incident-free work-hours during 2014. MID received first place from a pool of utilities which had between 30,000 and 59,999 work hours.

“We are extremely honored to receive this recognition” said MID’s Ouchley. “We will continue our training and safety programs that are so crucial to meeting our high bar of employee and public safety.”

The Safety Awards have been held annually for the last 55 years. The APPA represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit electric utilities.

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