



# OGA News & Views

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## Oklahoma Gas Association's Response to COVID-19

The challenges presented by the COVID-19 health event has impacted all aspects of our work lives. We will continue our operations for our members. At the same time, we know it is critical for the health of you and your personnel that OGA minimizes opportunities for the spread of the virus when possible.

To this end:

- Our office is closed in compliance with Gov. Stitt's Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the professional staff is working from home. The board met online Wednesday, March 25 and plans to do so until they can safely gather in the same room.
- We are currently planning to move forward with our May 5 [Understanding Underground Line Locating](#) Course in Edmond. The facility is large enough to ensure social distance between attendees during classroom session and much of the training will be outdoors.

(see OGA RESPONSE TO COVID-19, page 2)

## Plans for 2020 OGA Conference Are Moving Forward

Planning continues for the 2020 OGA Annual Conference scheduled for September 1-2, 2020 in Norman, OK.

"While we work to present our annual conference, we will closely monitor any impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have," said Tom Rider, Executive Director. "Our current plan is to open registration for both attendees and sponsors in May."

In addition to breakout sessions, currently scheduled featured speakers include:

- Tony Crow who delivers a powerful safety meeting with his "In the Blink of an Eye" presentation. After a 20-year career with TXU which included numerous safety meetings, one tragic event changed his life forever.
- American Gas Association President and CEO, Karen Harbert, will discuss the current state of the natural gas industry and what she considers most pressing challenges.
- Ellen Adams, Attorney with GableGotwals®, will discuss Oklahoma's medical marijuana situation, safety sensitive workers, and other updates.

Any questions about the 2020 OGA Annual Conference may directed to Rider at [tom@okgas.org](mailto:tom@okgas.org).

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*We want to hear from you!  
Ideas, concerns, ways to make the  
association more effective for you.*

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## OGA Plans to Present Understanding Underground Line Locating in Edmond

[Understanding Underground Line Locating](#) is scheduled for May 5, 2020 in Edmond and registration is available at [www.okgas.org](http://www.okgas.org).

"We are planning to move forward with this important training for our members because the facility is large and will allow social distancing and much of the training will be outdoors," said Tom Rider, Executive Director. "We will monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and take appropriate steps as needed."

This one-day training class provides general knowledge and understanding of line locating fundamentals with a focus on the use of electromagnetic line locators. It combines classroom and field training.

The registration fee for the training session is \$49 and includes lunch. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.; training beginning at 9 a.m.; and the session concluding by 3:30 p.m.

To ensure a better understanding of equipment currently used, attendees are encouraged to bring their own line locator. Or they may use one provided by the instructors.

Class Overview: Line locating and damage prevention is a critical part of any organization with underground assets. The class includes presentations, group discussions and field training.

Class goals include:

- A basic understanding of locator functionality
- A basic understanding of line locate theory and troubleshooting to ensure most accurate locate
- Understanding of damage prevention and state trends from Okie 811

Training topics include:

- Damage Prevention-importance and impact
- State Trends
- Types of locators
- Passive vs Active Locating
- Frequency Selection
- Determining Signal Shape
- Adjusting Signal Shape
- Adjusting Signal Strength
- Troubleshooting a difficult locate

The training session is sponsored by Green Equipment Company and Heath Consultants Inc. The City of Edmond is hosting this event.

Jason Crowe, with Green Equipment Company, will present the training. He has more than 20 years in oil/gas industry with the last 12 focused on damage prevention, Jason specializes in equipment and training to locate, inspect and monitor underground pipe and cables, along with leak detection (both water and gas) and pipeline integrity equipment.

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## OGA Response to COVID-19

*(continued from page 1)*

- Our annual [Leadership Conference](#) — a one-day leadership event for natural gas professionals — has been postponed from May 7, 2020 to June 9, 2020. Please mark your calendars now, registration information is available at [www.okgas.org](http://www.okgas.org).
- Our 2020 Annual Conference planning moves forward. We look forward to seeing you in Norman September 1 and 2.
- We are planning a three-part Leadership Series to begin in August covering Leadership & Leading Change, Visioning & Communicating the Vision, Developing & Leading Others.
- We posted links to several websites with good information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic from national and state agencies on our website — [www.okgas.org](http://www.okgas.org).

Email is and will continue to be the best way to contact us. You may email me at [tom@okgas.org](mailto:tom@okgas.org) or Jeff Kaufmann at [jeffk@okgas.org](mailto:jeffk@okgas.org). If there is anything we can do to help you during this on-going situation, please let us know.

Let me end by saying this — thank you. Each of you continue to work to provide the very best services for your customers during this critical time and we know you'll continue to do so in the days ahead.

As Mister Rogers put it — "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors — in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

Take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors. We are all in this together.

Tom Rider  
Executive Director

*Thank you*

**T.D. Williamson, Inc.**

*for being a*

**Platinum Annual  
Corporate Sponsor**



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## Natural Gas Utilities Committed to Supporting Communities Across the Country

From the American Gas Association

Editor's Note: [Click here](#) to access the American Gas Association COVID-19 Update Page

The American Gas Association President and CEO Karen Harbert released the following statement March 17, 2020 as the country faces the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic:

“There is not a day that goes by that as an industry the health and safety of our customers and employees is not top of mind. Natural gas utilities are consistently focused on delivering energy safely and reliably, and that same spirit of safety can be seen today as the nation faces challenges related to COVID-19. These companies remain vigilant in monitoring the effects of the virus to maintain operational capabilities across their service territories. And, in order to maintain the highest level of safety for customers and employees, natural gas utilities have put in place important safeguards and we remain committed to these practices to keep communities safe—these include heightened levels of hygiene and protection for employees who may need to enter a customer’s home.”

“We recognize that natural gas is critical for

millions of businesses across the country—from health care to other essential service industries. We work closely with these and other commercial customers to ensure they have the energy they need to provide the critical services that Americans and our nation depend on. And we know that as more and more people are spending increased amounts of time at home, they are expecting reliable and consistent energy; we are committed to being there 24/7—that has not, and will not, change in light of this pandemic.”

“While no one can ever fully prepare for a crisis like we are experiencing, the industry regularly plans, prepares and drills for extenuating circumstances, and that preparation pays off for our customers, especially first responders and critical facilities.”

“We recognize the potential exists that many will be facing financial and health challenges in the coming days and months and we are committed to helping our customers address their energy needs. Natural gas companies are part of the communities they serve—this can be felt today more than ever as these companies step up to ensure homes and businesses have the energy they want and need during this difficult time.”

*Thank you*



*for being a*

**Diamond Annual  
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## 2020 OGA Leadership Conference Scheduled for June 9

The theme for the 2020 OGA [Leadership Conference](#) is LEGACY: Creating A Life of Impact and Influence and is scheduled for June 9 in Edmond, Oklahoma.

According to a Harvard study, by the time we are 30 years old, up to 95 percent of our thoughts are recycled from the day before. So, it's no wonder we find ourselves in ruts; bored, burned out and frustrated by the inner knowing of there being something "more" than we're currently experiencing.

Recognizing everything rises and falls on leadership, this powerful one-day course starts at the most important place – developing ourselves and our LEGACY (a life of impact and influence).

### What to expect:

Have you ever considered "WHO YOU WANT TO BE?" Is that the person you "SHOW UP AS?" Understanding the distinction between the two and closing the gap, will allow course participants to define, share, and live "THEIR LEGACY."

This will be accomplished through thought provoking conversations and group & personal exercises. Steps toward success begin by looking at mindset, routines, and daily habits along with candid and frank discussions covering "HOW TO CREATE A POWERFUL DAY" and "TURNING OFF AUTO-PILOT."

At the conclusion of this day-long course, participants will create and step into "THEIR LEGACY" – a life of impact and influence.

Cody Jefferson will lead the 2020 OGA Leadership Conference. He is a native Oklahoman and is a highly sought-after motivational speaker and the mindset/business coach for the high achievers looking to answer the deeper questions of life, spirituality and purpose.

A former pastor, he brings a combination of raw no-nonsense coaching coupled with the ability to step INTO your personal and professional experience. An expert on mindset, behavior patterns, and human potential, Cody will call your purpose out of you in a way you've never experienced.

The registration fee is \$125 for members and \$250 for non-members and includes lunch. Registration is now open at [www.okgas.com](http://www.okgas.com). To register with the member rate, members must create their online account. Recent emails have included information about how to do this and will be included in emails about the one-day conference.

The session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to conclude no later than 3 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn & Edmond Conference Center (2833 Conference Drive, Edmond, OK).

Any questions about the Leadership Conference may directed to Tom Rider, Executive Director, at [tom@okgas.org](mailto:tom@okgas.org).

### 2019 – 2020 OGA Board of Directors

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## COVID-19 Tips & Resources



# COVID-19 COMPARISON

## CORONAVIRUS vs. COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19*	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common (100F or higher)	Rare	High (100-102F, can last 3-4 days)	No
Headache	Sometimes	Rare	Intense	Sometimes
General aches, pains	Sometimes	Slight	Common (often severe)	No
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Slight	Common (often severe)	Sometimes
Extreme exhaustion	Sometimes (progresses slowly)	Never	Common (starts early)	No
Stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Rare	Common	Common	No
Cough	Common	Mild to moderate	Common (can become severe)	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	In more serious infections	Rare	Rare	Common
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Diarrhea	Sometimes	No	Sometimes**	No

\* Information is still evolving \*\* Sometimes for children



INFORMATION + UPDATES  
[CORONAVIRUS.HEALTH.OK.GOV](https://CORONAVIRUS.HEALTH.OK.GOV)  
 CALL CENTER: 877-215-8336 OR 2-1-1

What we can do today to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus:

- Clean and disinfect regularly
- Be diligent of surroundings and to increase hand washing and personal hygiene techniques
- Adopt a "no hand-shake" policy
- Practice "social distancing" by keeping a 6-foot space between individuals when interacting
- Use telephone calls, video conferencing and/or email to replace "face-to-face" meetings
- Restrict workplaces to essential staff and service providers only
- Self-isolate anyone who has been in proximity to anyone suspected or confirmed having the virus for 14 days.

COVID-19 Resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#)
- [American Gas Association COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Home Page](#)
- [US Department of Labor - OSHA COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control](#)
- [National Governors Association COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration COVID-19 Update Page](#)