



FOR OVER A DECADE, UTILITIES KINGSTON HAS BEEN CHAMPIONING FUELS SAFETY, PIPELINE SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND WORKPLACE SAFETY.

Jim Keech
Utilities Kingston,
President and CEO

IMPACT SAFETY AWARD



Every superhero knows there is safety in numbers. Just ask the Avengers, the X-Men or the Fantastic Four. How about Utilities Kingston, otherwise known as the League of Extraordinary Champs?

For over a decade, Utilities Kingston, with its trusted partner the City of Kingston, has been championing fuels safety, pipeline safety, infrastructure safety and workplace safety with their annual Safety Days event for employees and contractors – with a goal to ensuring ‘everyone goes safely home – everyday.’

The successful health and safety event has grown from its initial 30 people, representing five contracting firms, to more than 575 participants and over 145 firms, including gas fitters, excavators, landscapers, electricians, plumbers and cleaners. Founded on a consistent set of safety messages, the now 2-day event makes safety the number one priority for all Kingston worksites.

“Our goal is simple: get everyone home safe, every day”, says Karen Santucci, Manager of Service and Gas Operations. “We focus on giving all employees, organizations and contractors the knowledge and tools to prevent injuries and illnesses on any worksite in our community.”

What are the most immediate dangers? Hitting underground utilities, such as a pressurized gas pipeline, creates a serious hazard. Even a minor scrape from a shovel or backhoe can damage underground infrastructure and create a natural gas leak. And if it finds an ignition source, you get a catastrophic explosion – putting everyone at risk.

Over the past 10 years, Utilities Kingston has noted a significant decrease in the number of third-party pipeline strikes, more than 75%, in its natural gas distribution areas.

“We emphasize safety as the highest priority on every worksite in Kingston”, says Jim Keech, President and CEO of Utilities

THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY CHAMPS

We work with everyone to ensure all precautions are taken to prevent injuries and damages – to both workers and the public.

Kingston. “By making safety a core corporate value, we’re fostering a culture to help ensure the wellbeing of our employees, contractors and the public. It’s one of the most important ways we’re helping to build better communities.”

The event also provides opportunities for contractors and staff to participate in free training sessions. The key is relevance, with content developed from health and safety issues that have arisen in previous years.

Areas of focus for Utilities Kingston are locates, sewer safety inspections and excavation practices. Last year, the utility went a step further and optimized its gas valve maintenance program by implementing a location-based application, Collector for ArcGIS. Crews access and update real-time, up-to-date valve data in the field, which in turn is used to determine preventative maintenance and schedule service work using Workforce for ArcGIS. Overall, digitizing the process has resulted in more reliable information and increased productivity, helping to improve the safety and reliability of the municipal gas distribution system.

“Utilities Kingston shows true leadership,” says John Marshall, TSSA’s Director of Fuels Safety, “and they bring others along the way. As part of the ‘League of Champions’, a conglomerate of industry partners seeking to build a greater culture of safety, Utilities Kingston is more than deserving of TSSA’s Impact Safety Award.”