



Thank you First Responders
You're our Heroes

Utility workers are also first on the scene

When you think of first responders, most people don't think about the personnel at Fort Valley Utility Commission. However, a first responder is defined as a person who is among the first to arrive and who is trained or designated to respond to an emergency. Utility workers are high on that list.

When power lines go down, a gas line leak is reported, or a sewer or water mains breaks, your local utility company is dispatched. The restoration of telecom services to facilitate the quick exchange of information and for some services to even operate properly or be monitored can also be critical during times of emergencies. The first responders at Fort Valley Utility Commission are trained to respond quickly and efficiently, working sometimes around the clock to restore power, get clean water back flowing, addressing sewer leaks to prevent hazardous environmental issues and addressing gas leaks that have the potential to cause enormous property damage or loss of lives.

Although emergencies occur often re-



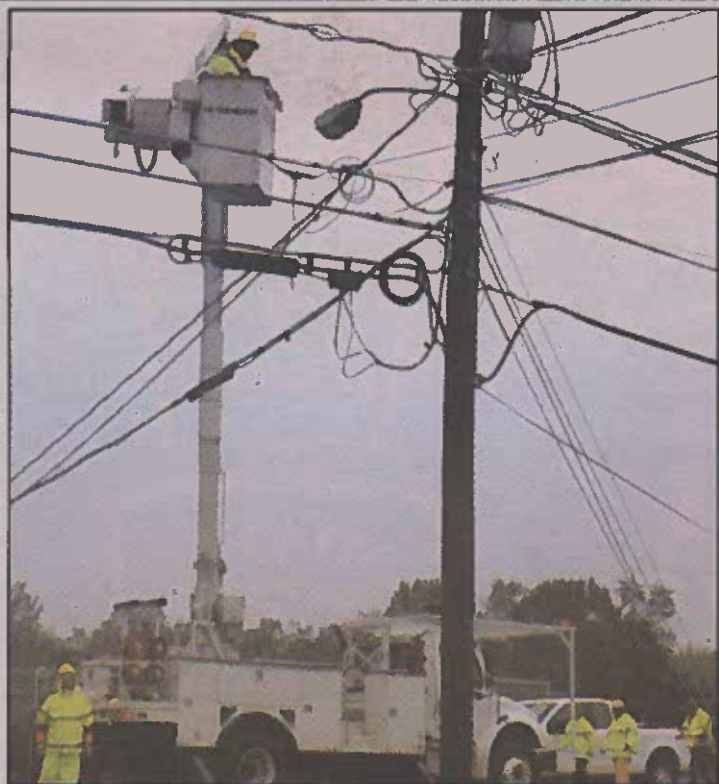
Fort Valley Utilities Commission is governed by an elected board. From left are: Alre' Horton, Linda Johnson, Craig Mims - General Manager, Dollie Horton - Chairman, Fort Valley Mayor Barbara Williams and Vice Chairman Bob Hurricutt.

quiring the dispatch of utility workers, Hurricane Irma was the most recent large-scale emergency that required the deployment of the Commission's first responders. Irma swept through Georgia leaving approximately one million people without power, 5,000 of them in the Commission's service area. Fort Valley Utility Commission first

responders were quickly dispatched to outage calls. Employees from all departments including Electric, Water, Wastewater, Telecom, and Gas Crews were among the first on the scene working tirelessly to restore power to the over 5,000 customers and within 36 hours, all the Commission's customers were restored. In a matter of minutes crews

were ready to be dispatched to restore systems and get them back operational. During that time, it was also important that Telecom remained on the scene to keep communication lines clear during the emergency.

So next time you think of a first responder, think of Fort Valley Utility Commission, your local utility provider



**Rain, sleet,
snow or dead
of night...**
Keeping our
communities going



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