



Middle Tennessee Gas Distributors Deploy “NatMobile”

The Middle Tennessee Gas Distributors Association’s (MTGDA) Emergency Response Trailer, affectionately known as the NatMobile, was christened into emergency response use in Monterey (Putnam County) at the end of February. This was following the ice storms that struck the Cumberland Plateau especially hard.

The Putnam County School System, through the Putnam County Emergency Operations Center, contacted local natural gas supplier, Middle Tennessee Natural Gas (MTNG), and requested the use of the MTGDA Food Trailer to assist in feeding children in the community. A significant number of the children in the area hit by the ice storm were on free and reduced lunches. With the schools closed for almost two weeks, there was a fear that parents had likely exhausted what supplies they had in their homes. The school system explained that, due to government rules and regulations, it is almost impossible for them to serve meals out of the school facilities. The school system offered to staff the operation, but needed a kitchen and food to prepare. The MTGDA voted with a “Yes”!

Several MTGDA members immediately agreed to send donations. Atmos Energy was the first to donate money for the food that was purchased. They then delivered it to Monterey High School for staging. Lebanon Gas Department arranged to have the trailer delivered. Perdue Chicken donated 200 pounds of chicken and the rest has been supplied through many donations in the area.

The County School System Nutrition Department is staffing the trailer and the NatMobile will remain set up near the City Parks & Recreation Office until no longer needed. Putnam EMA has posted information and serving times on their Facebook Page.

MTNG coordinated efforts to take volunteers into the affected areas on Saturday, February 28th, to provide assistance. MTNG’s local offices are also collecting donations for those agencies requesting assistance. The donations are delivered by volunteers.