

PIPELINE



With 23 Years of Service, Nathan Nail Knows DC Gas

Nathan Nail wears a lot of hats. As a DC Gas crew chief, he oversees the DeKalb County side of the system. His daily duties include overseeing crews and lining up work agendas. *"I mostly meet with customers and get a feel of what they want when they come in and fill out a new service request at our office,"* he said of the position he's held since 2015. *"I try to do all the legwork so when the crew gets to the work site, everything is ready to go, and the crew has a hassle-free job."*

He's worked at DC Gas for 23 years, starting with the plumbing crew at DC Gas called DC Gas Connections, which fills commercial and residential plumbing needs for customers. He worked there about two years, then moved to construction, installing mains and services.

"Before long, I worked my way up to crew leader and began running my own crew at the gas company, installing residential and commercial service lines," Nail said.

As crew chief, Nail works with homeowners on what gas services they desire and where to place the gas meter on the house. *"I usually try to use my past experience in plumbing to save the customer as much money as possible and give them the best option when it comes to installing natural gas appliances,"* he said.

Nail also oversees the emergency operations of safety and fire training

for the company. That fits right in with the other hat he wears as the Fyffe Fire Department fire chief. He's been in fire services since he was 15 years old and is a Certified Fire Fighter 2 and Fire Instructor through the Alabama Fire College.

In addition, he trains the DC Gas crew each year on how to respond to natural gas leaks and natural gas firefighting. *"We respond to gas leaks in and outside the home as well as third party damage that may occur at any time to any of our main or service lines,"* Nail said. *"So all our guys go through this emergency training."*

Over the last several years, Nail has also headed up the utility's public outreach campaign and worked with Alabama 811 to host the annual AFACT meeting. The state's Public Service Commission requires DC Gas to provide education on pipeline safety, damage prevention and public awareness. The annual meeting is open to emergency responders, excavators and public officials who live, work, or respond around the utility's facilities.

"This safety meeting has grown significantly over the years as we try and get the word out about the importance of Know What's Below - 'Call 811 before you Dig,'" he said. *"We work hand-and-hand with our close vendors and 811 to provide an educational meeting filled with food, fun and facts about natural gas involvement in our daily work environment."*



Nathan Nail
DC Gas Crew Chief

Safety is the No. 1 priority, especially in this line of work.

"We want, not only our guys well-equipped and trained, but the public and first responders to have a good understanding of how to properly work safe around natural gas," he said.

Nail graduated from Fort Payne High School in 1999. He and his wife of 21 years, Crystal, have four children, and live in the Shiloh community between Rainsville and Fyffe.

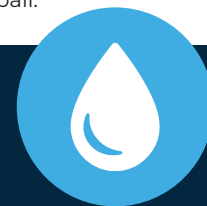
"I most enjoy being outside and meeting people, and getting to talk to them through my work," Nail said. *"I like to spend my time fishing or working on our cattle farm when I'm not at the ballfield or coaching."*

He also enjoys watching his children play basketball, softball, volleyball, baseball, and travel ball.

Benefits of Gas Water Heaters (and Tips for Buying)

Water heaters use about 20 percent of a home's energy. In fact, your water heater uses more energy than your refrigerator, washing machine, dryer, and dishwasher - combined. But, a gas water heater costs about 33 percent less to operate than an electric one. Gas heaters also heat water faster than electric and continue to operate during a power failure.

When choosing a new water heater, understand the different types and consider your needs. Our crew can help determine what size tank you need based on the size of your family. Or consider a tankless system, which provides hot water on demand rather than using a storage tank.





The Fire is So Delightful



Create a beautiful ambience and heat things up with an Empire White Vail 32 Fireplace. At 99.9 percent efficiency, the vent-free Vail fireplace delivers more heat for your dollars. The ceramic glazed pellets in the burner produce a natural flickering flame.

Choose between two log sets - ceramic fiber and refractory. Surround the fireplace with a standard or corner cabinet mantel, beautifully hand-finished. It's a good seller at DC Gas. Current price is \$2,449, which includes a thermostat remote control.



Winter is also a good time to add an efficient Hearthrite vent-free gas heater, which heat even when the electric power fails. Consider the Small Black Hearthrite cast iron heater, which has a current price is \$699 including on/off remote control. All vent-free systems include an oxygen depletion sensor that automatically turns off the heater if room oxygen level drops to an unsafe level. The vent-free heaters also offer a choice of manual or thermostat control, with standard wall-mounting included.

SAVE \$\$ on Your Natural Gas Bill

We all want to stay toasty on these cold winter nights, but that doesn't mean a huge increase in your gas bill.

✓ **Turn Down the Thermostat.**

Save as much as 3 percent for each degree you turn your thermostat down this the winter. And turn down your thermostat when you're away from home and when you go to bed at night. Just grab an extra blanket.

✓ **Turn Down the Tank, too.**

Keeping your gas water heater at 120F will cut costs by 6-10 percent.

✓ **Take Care of Your System.**

Have your HVAC system cleaned and checked every year to keep it running at peak performance. Clean and replace the air filter regularly.

✓ **Keep Out the Cold.**

Winterize your windows and doors so cold air doesn't get in. Seal all leaks. Block windows and doors with weatherstrip tape and inexpensive door sweeps and install blinds to reduce outside heat transfer. Open the blinds on sunny winter days to let in heat.

✓ **Insulate the House.**

In that same spirit, make sure your house is well insulated. Install storm windows—they are added insulation for your home.

With a few energy efficiency improvements, you can reduce your natural gas use and save money. Call our main office for ways to make your home or business more energy efficient.

Sources: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New Hampshire Department of Energy (and they know cold weather!)

Stay Safe & Warm This Winter

Keep yourself warm this winter and stay safe doing it with a few tips.

Leave Space:

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heat sources like fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters. This includes curtains, towels hanging on a rack or clothes tossed on a chair.

Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector:

Place the detector on the level of your home where a gas fireplace is located. Ensure a gas fireplace has an oxygen depletion sensor designed to shut off the unit when a low amount of oxygen level is reached. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

Three-Foot Rule:

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the fireplace. And never leave a fireplace unattended.

Install a Working Smoke Detector:

Test the batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.

Get a Check-Up:

Have an expert check your device each year. Gas fireplaces need to be cleaned annually or even more often depending on amount of use.

Keep Portable Generators Outdoors:

These appliances are great if your power goes out but should remain outdoors, as far from the house as possible.