THE RIGHT STUFF

In the natural gas industry, it’s always safety first, and luckily for an Ohio homeowner, two natural gas contractors were on the scene of a house fire at just the right time to put those words into action.

Matt Mellott and Bill Waugaman, employees of Miller Pipeline, a Columbia Gas of Ohio contractor, were on their way to a job site when they noticed smoke—a lot of smoke—coming from the roof of a nearby house.

Mellott, a third-generation volunteer firefighter, and Waugaman, an Army veteran, were ready and able to take charge. As they called 911 and beat on the door to see if anyone was inside, the homeowner and his son ran up from next door. Mellott stopped the owner’s son from entering the house and quickly turned off the gas, making sure the situation didn’t get any worse.

The Toledo Fire Department credited the dynamic duo with saving not just the house but also a garage and a neighbor’s home that could easily have been destroyed without their quick work.

“Matt and Bill’s actions really show how far we have come with our culture of safety,” said Toledo Front Line Construction Leader Jim Simon. “Safety is not just about the task at hand but about getting involved, when necessary, outside of operations.”

But Mellott put it best: “We just like to help people, help out as much as we can. Everyone should feel responsibility in helping their neighbors.”

From left to right: London Eaton, Miller Pipeline supervisor; Matt Mellott; Debbie Armstrong, Columbia Gas of Ohio construction coordinator; and Bill Waugaman