

ALERT FROM HUTCHINSON UTILITIES

This winters snow storms may have created some hazardous conditions around your home or business. Heavy snowfalls or improperly placed snow from plowing, snow blowing, or shoveling may create hazards. Be alert when you are removing snow from your property. Do not pile snow around your gas meter; in fact it is a good idea to keep a path clear to your meter for quick access in the case of an emergency.

Avoid blowing snow around your gas meter. Natural gas regulators have a vent that must be kept clear of snow and ice to reduce the potential for equipment malfunctions that may lead to service disruption or worse, natural gas build-up in your home. Hutchinson Utilities recommends that customers gently, by hand, remove snow from the entire meter assembly, also being aware of snow melting off the roof during the day and refreezing on the meter at night. When clearing your roof of snow and icicles be sure to protect the gas meter from being impacted and be aware of overhead power lines.

The build-up of snow around fresh air intakes and exhaust vents that come through your wall (not your chimney) on the new high efficiency furnaces and water heaters, must to be kept clear or your equipment may not burn properly and may lead to the accumulation of carbon monoxide (CO) in your home.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, and deadly gas that is a result of incomplete combustion and poor venting. Headaches, dizziness and flu-like symptoms are several of the warning signs of the presence of carbon monoxide. Hutchinson Utilities encourages an annual inspection of all natural gas burning equipment by a licensed inspector and suggests the use of carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home.

Be aware of other CO sources: running your car in the garage, grilling in the garage, running generators inside, fuel burning space heaters, etc. Just remember, if it burns a fuel, carbon monoxide is likely to be in the exhaust.

If you suspect Carbon Monoxide Gas in your home or business:

- Call **320-587-4746** or **911** immediately

If you suspect Natural Gas in your home or business:

- Leave the building immediately
- **Do not** turn off lights or use other electrical devices.
- **Do not** take the time to open doors and windows, other than the one door you use to exit.
- **Do not** use your home telephone or a cellular telephone while in your home, go to a neighbor's and call **320-587-4746** or **911**.

**Please call 320-587-4746 if you have any questions
or need further information.**



HUTCHINSON UTILITIES COMMISSION