

Gas Meter Safety During the Winter

Watch for Damage from Snow and Ice

Homeowners and property owners should be alert to heavy buildup of snow or ice on rooftops. Falling ice and snow can damage natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator. Remember that clearing snow and ice from meters or vents needs to be done carefully and gently to avoid damaging the equipment. Do not pile snow against your natural gas meter and/or pressure regulator set when shoveling, plowing or using a snow blower. Our meter readers always appreciate it when you keep your meter free of snow and ice and maintain a clear path to the meter. This allows for safe, easy access for our gas technicians and emergency responders

Keep Appliance Vents Clear

Drifting snow may block appliance intake and exhaust vents. If a vent is obstructed, the appliance may malfunction or create a potentially hazardous condition, such as a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide. Keep vents clear of snow and ice. If you suspect carbon monoxide may be present, seek fresh air immediately and call Gas Control at 1-877-532-5636. Reminder to replace batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors at least twice each year and change the batteries in your smoke alarms also.

If You Smell An Odor

Natural gas has no odor. To help you detect the presence of gas, we add a strong odorant, mercaptan, that has an odor similar to sulfur or rotten eggs. If you smell this odor:

- Exit the building immediately.
- Avoid using any electric appliances such as light switches, garage door openers and phones—including a cell phone
- Call Maine Natural Gas Emergency from a nearby building by dialing 1-877-LEAK ODOR (1-877-532-5636).
- Do not re-enter the building, until someone from the utility or a first responder tells you it's safe.
- We will investigate leaks as a free service, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.