

# IMPORTANT NATURAL GAS SAFETY INFORMATION

## Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. If you have natural gas in your home or business, you should consider installing CO detectors to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

A blocked chimney or flue on a natural gas furnace could result in carbon monoxide poisoning. Blockages can be caused by either mortar that has fallen down the chimney's inner walls or other debris that has fallen down the chimney, such as leaves and bricks. Check your chimney for blockages annually and have it cleaned by a qualified contractor if necessary. Also, a contractor can ensure that your fuel-burning appliances and piping are properly ventilated to the outside.

Often there is little time before poisoned victims experience symptoms that limit their ability to seek help. Some of the symptoms include: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, loss of hearing, blurry vision, vomiting, seizures, unconsciousness, respiratory failure and cardiac arrest. If you suspect CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Be sure to call for help before helping others.

## Winter Natural Gas Safety

The warmest place during a snowstorm certainly may be indoors, but don't forget to venture out to take care of utility equipment to ensure safe and proper operation.

- Be sure outside vents from direct-vent appliances (such as dryers and heaters) are free of snow, ice and debris
- Be careful when clearing snow and ice from around your gas meter; any damage to the meter could potentially create a possible leak hazard. Protect your meter from snow blowers and snow plows.
- Keep shoveled and plowed snow piles far away from your gas meter and never use a shovel or sharp tool to chip ice away – this can cause damage or break the meter
- Repair gutters and downspouts that drip water onto your meter
- If your meter is encased in ice and you experience problems with your gas service, or if you smell gas - please call our gas emergency number at 1-302-454-0317 immediately



## Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) is a flexible, stainless steel pipe used to supply natural gas in residential, commercial and industrial structures. CSST is often coated with a yellow or black exterior plastic coating.

If you have CSST in your home or business after the gas meter, we recommend that you contact a licensed electrician to ensure piping after the gas meter is bonded and grounded properly. Delmarva Power does not provide an inspection service for CSST installations. If you are unsure if your property contains CSST, contact a qualified contractor to obtain a professional inspection.

## Hot Water Hazard

Setting a water heater temperature too high can be dangerous. According to the US Department of Energy, a water heater temperature set to 120 degrees is adequate for most household chores and presents a minimal danger of scalding and maximal energy efficiency. Many hot water scalding accidents are preventable if we take the right steps:

- Make sure that your water heater is set to a safe temperature (i.e., no more than 120 degrees)
- Check the water temperature before placing young children in the bathtub
- Supervise young children and never allow them to play with a faucet unsupervised



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