**REMINDER**

Hutchinson Utilities is reminding you to keep the snow and ice clear from your natural gas meter and regulator. Natural gas regulators have a vent that must not be blocked. Storms, drifting snow and warmer temperatures melting the snow can cause problems. This build-up around the meter set can cause the natural gas regulator to malfunction, resulting in overpressure or loss of natural gas altogether.

Blocked venting can cause a furnace or hot water heater to stop working, or even worse, the buildup of deadly carbon monoxide. Make sure appliance sidewall and rooftop vents are clear of snow and ice and check them often. Gently brush away snow by hand. Do not use a torch, chemicals, or equipment that can damage the meter set. Watch for icicle buildup above the meter set and carefully remove them. A shoveled path to the meter set will assist personnel during emergencies.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death when breathed. CO is found in combustion fumes. The most common symptoms are headache, dizziness, weakness, tiredness, nausea, and vomiting. The risk of CO increases in the winter when buildings are sealed up. HUC suggests every building should have at least one CO detector and understand how it works. Remember to replace the batteries and the detector per manufacturer’s recommendations, as they do not last forever.

Be aware of dangers outside your home also. CO can come from many sources. Running a generator in a confined space, blocked exhaust on a car stuck in the snow, unvented heaters, grilling or letting a car run inside the garage are all examples of where CO may be present. Remember - Whenever a fuel is burned, carbon monoxide may be in the fumes.

If you ever suspect Natural Gas or Carbon Monoxide Call

**911**

Or

Hutchinson Utilities at

1-320-587-4745 or 1-877-593-3973

A safety message from: Hutchinson Utilities Commission

HutchinsonUtilities.com