

Why Public Natural Gas Matters to our Community

October 5–11 marks Public Natural Gas Week—a time for communities like ours to recognize the value of one of our greatest assets: our publicly owned natural gas utility. Across the United States, there are about 1,000 public natural gas utilities. Most of these serve just a few hundred to a few thousand customers, yet their impact is far greater. They provide an essential service—delivering clean, affordable, and efficient natural gas that communities rely on every day.

Here in our community, customers understand the importance of reliable energy. Having a locally owned public utility is the best way to ensure it. Public natural gas utilities offer several unique benefits, including:

Local accountability. Because public utilities are owned by the communities they serve, decisions about energy needs are made locally, with input from citizens.

Affordable, competitive rates. Local control means keeping costs fair and competitive, which is especially important as energy and fuel prices continue to rise. This helps protect family budgets while still ensuring reliable service.

Community investment. Public natural gas utilities strengthen the local economy. By working with local financial institutions and purchasing from nearby businesses, we help keep dollars in the community, broaden the tax base, and support job creation.

We are grateful for your continued support of Centennial Utilities. Together, we look forward to providing safe, dependable natural gas service—today and for years to come.



www.centennialutilities.com

Utilities Office

200 Civic Heights Circle
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Phone: 763-784-6751

TDD: 763-231-2617

Emergency after hours:

911 or 763-427-1212

(ask for Centennial Utilities)

xpress BILL PAY

IT'S EASY...

Manage your account and pay your utility bill online.

Visit www.centennialutilities.com, click on Xpress Bill Pay under Key Services.

Commission Members

*Commission meets on
Tuesday, October 28 at 5 p.m.*

Jan Kreminski, Chair
Dwight Benoy
Curt Theis
Eric Peterson
Brian Olson

Heating Season is a Time to Beware of Carbon Monoxide Dangers

Minnesota Department of Commerce

As Minnesotans turn up the heat to stay warm this fall and winter, it is also important to be alert to the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. About 500 people die each year in the United States from exposure to carbon monoxide (CO), a odorless and colorless gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels.

CO is produced whenever a material burns. It can build up to life-threatening concentrations indoors when fuel-burning devices are not properly vented, operated or maintained. This includes furnaces, water heaters, gas or kerosene space heaters, gas boilers, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, charcoal or gas grills, fireplaces and wood stoves, motor vehicles and yard equipment.

CO dangers are most common in the winter months when a heating system malfunctions in a home or a car engine is left running in a garage. CO can also accumulate in an ice house with a gas space heater, stove or portable generator.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce offer some tips to prevent CO poisoning:

- **Properly vent and maintain fuel-burning appliances.** They should be vented to the outside and checked by a qualified heating contractor every year to detect potential problems. CO buildup in a home is often caused by improper venting of flue gases and may include a cracked furnace heat exchanger, blocked or undersized

chimney or vents, damaged or separated vents, or insufficient combustion air supply.

- **Never use an appliance inside that is intended only for outdoor use**, such as barbecue grills, camp stoves or portable generators.

- **Do not idle a car in a garage**, either attached or detached. Dangerously high levels of CO can accumulate even when the garage door is open.

- **Know the signs of CO poisoning.** Early symptoms such as headache and fatigue are similar to the flu, but without a fever. Continued CO exposure can lead to more severe headaches, dizziness, nausea, difficulty thinking clearly and fainting. If everyone in a household is experiencing symptoms, it may be CO poisoning.

- **Install CO alarms in your home.** Minnesota law requires that every home have at least one operational CO alarm within 10 feet of every room used for sleeping. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement of your CO alarms, and pay attention to the suggested replacement date.

For more information on CO poisoning, visit the Minnesota Department of Health (health.state.mn.us) or Minnesota Department of Commerce (mn.gov/commerce/) websites.



Local Programs for Heating Assistance

If you have difficulty paying your utility bills or need help improving the energy efficiency of your home, you may find help through one or more of the local emergency programs for heating assistance. Call for eligibility requirements and to see if you qualify.

Anoka County Economic Assistance
763-422-7200

Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) Energy Assistance Program October 1 to May 31. Also call this number for no-heat situations.
763-783-4747

Salvation Army HeatShare (Anoka County office)
763-755-6873

Moving? Contact Us

If you are planning to move into or out of Centennial Utilities' service area, please contact us at 763-784-6751.

We will need your current and future address and telephone numbers in order to arrange final meter readings and ensure an accurate final billing.