

Fall | 2023

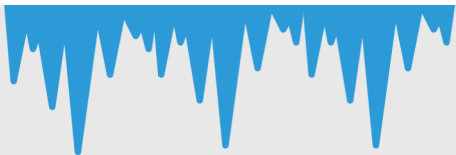
pilotLight

*A newsletter for Jo-Carroll Energy
natural gas members*

Winter is around the corner

The cooler mornings, and shorter nights, remind us that winter is right around the corner. Jo-Carroll Energy is prepared to continue providing safe, reliable natural gas service to keep your family safe and warm this winter.

Before you break out your mittens, scarves and boots to get ready for winter, brush up on natural gas safety tips to keep in mind during the upcoming winter.



Keep an eye out for snow and ice accumulation on natural gas equipment, such as meters, regulators and vents. Excess snow and ice should be carefully cleared from natural gas equipment, such as meters and appliance exhaust vents – with a brush or broom, or your hands – instead of a shovel.



Use caution with supplemental heaters and generators. Don't supplement a heating system lost during an outage by using household items such as cooking stoves or ovens. Generators can help during emergencies but require care and planning for safe use. They should never be placed indoors.



Have carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home and within ten feet of any sleeping areas. Just as you do with smoke detectors, check and replace batteries in CO detectors, too.



If there is an odor of natural gas in or around the premises, evacuate and immediately call 911 and Jo-Carroll Energy from a safe place. JCE considers it an emergency if customers smell an odor of gas or if none of their natural gas appliances are working.
(800)858-5522

Gas meter and vent safety

Your outdoor natural gas meter is designed to work in harsh winter weather. However, heavy accumulations of snow and ice can damage your meter and be unsafe. Here are a few basic tips to help keep you safe this winter:

- Make sure your meter is free of clutter and other obstructions, especially snow and ice.
- When clearing walks or drives, do not pile snow on or near the meter.
- Keep water from dripping from your roof and freezing on the meter
- Carefully remove icicles and snow build-up from roof eaves above the meter and on the meter itself.
- Never kick or strike the meter to loosen built-up ice or snow
- Ensure snow and ice aren't blocking exhaust vents or combustion air ducts. This could leave you exposed to deadly carbon monoxide. Your natural gas appliances, including your furnace, fireplace, water heater and clothes dryer, require good ventilation to operate properly.

Following these simple steps will reduce the risk of hazards, including natural gas leaks. If you regularly have snow burying the meter please contact us at 800-858-5522





Warm and cozy without overspending

The days are getting shorter and the weather is turning colder. How much you save on your energy bills this winter will depend largely on what you do now. Here are steps you can take to help make your home more warm and cozy and energy efficient when winter weather comes.

Heating system

- Have your heating system checked by a qualified professional before cold weather arrives.
- Clean vents and other heating system components.
- Replace your furnace filter and continue to replace it regularly throughout the heating season.
- Install a programmable thermostat; it will save energy by automatically lowering temperatures at night and when you are away from home.
- If your heating system is older, upgrade to an ENERGY STAR® certified high-efficiency furnace or heat pump.

Doors and windows

- Replace worn weather stripping around all doors
- Caulk around gaps in windows.
- Install storm doors if you have them.
- Consider replacing older windows with newer, more efficient models.

Chimney and fireplace

- Have the chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned by a professional.
- Repair or replace loose-fitting fireplace dampers; they will allow warm air to escape.
- Keep the damper closed whenever the fireplace is not in use.
- Install fireplace inserts, covers, glass doors or flue sealers to prevent heat loss through your chimney.

Outside your home

- Be sure to trim and clean around your gas meter and never pile anything on the meter. Remember to keep it clear of ice and snow, too!
- Replace any missing or damaged roof shingles.
- Clean gutters and make sure that downspouts point away from the house.
- Make sure that flashing around chimney and vent pipes is sealed tight.
- Trim tree limbs that are touching or overhanging the house.

Take steps now to prepare your home for cold weather and you'll save energy and stay safe and comfortable all winter.

Still time to get your efficiency incentives for 2023



Jo-Carroll Energy's incentive program is designed to help residential and commercial members save money and promote energy efficiency.

JCE offers numerous incentives that members can take advantage of to save money. There is

still time to take advantage of these incentives for 2023.

If you have already had work done and are planning on submitting documentation to receive incentives it must be submitted no later than December 27.

All qualifying equipment must have been purchased and/or installed in 2023. Documentation must be submitted no later than 3 months after purchase and installation.

To learn more visit jocarroll.com

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