



Winter/Spring | 2025

A newsletter for JCE Co-op natural gas members.

## 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 create safety hazards. 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 driveways, 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 buildup 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. Blockages can expose you 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 experience snow burying your meter, please contact us at 800-858-5522.



Stay safe and warm this winter with these essential safety tips from JCE Co-op!

## Exciting changes coming to our lockbox services this spring

At JCE Co-op, we're always looking for ways to better serve our members, and your feedback plays a crucial role in guiding our decisions. You spoke, and we listened! This spring, we'll be transitioning our lockbox payment processing to a location closer to home in Chicago, IL.

Why the change? By moving our lockbox processing closer, we aim to streamline your bill payment experience and reduce mail delays. This adjustment means your payments will be processed more efficiently, providing you with added peace of mind.

As we prepare for this transition, we'll be sharing more details through bill inserts, email updates, and our monthly magazine. Keep an eye out for these communications to ensure you're informed every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued support and feedback as we work to enhance our services for all our members. If you have any questions please contact Member Services by calling 800-858-5522.

## Casper, APGA representatives meet with FERC commissioners

On Dec. 5, 2024, JCE Co-op President & CEO Mike Casper along with representatives of other community-owned utilities and the American Public Gas Association (APGA) met with two Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) commissioners.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss federal policy priorities important to community-owned utilities and share the impacts of severe winter weather on members and consumers, including the need for additional natural gas pipeline infrastructure to ensure sufficient supply of natural gas capacity for the region.



"With the winter heating season fully underway, let us not forget the lessons of winter storm Uri and the havoc wreaked on the natural gas markets," Casper said.





## Carbon Monoxide: The invisible danger in your home

Carbon monoxide (CO) is often called the “silent killer.” It’s an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas that can be deadly if it builds up in your home. With colder months ahead and more reliance on natural gas appliances, it’s important to understand how to stay safe.

### What Is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels like natural gas, wood, or propane burn incompletely. Common sources include gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and portable generators.

### Know the Symptoms

CO poisoning can happen quickly or over time. Early symptoms often look like the flu but without a fever. Watch for these warning signs:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion

Severe exposure can cause fainting, chest pain, seizures, or even death. If you suspect CO poisoning, leave your home immediately and call 911.

### Install Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Every home with gas appliances or a fireplace should have CO detectors. Install them on every floor, especially near sleeping areas. Test them monthly, change the batteries yearly, and replace the devices every five to seven years.

### Keep Vents and Appliances Clear

Blocked vents and chimneys can cause CO to build up indoors. After heavy snow or storms, check to make sure vents are clear. Never use outdoor equipment, like grills or generators, inside your home.

### Get an Annual Inspection

Have a qualified technician inspect your gas appliances, furnace, and water heater every year. Regular maintenance helps prevent leaks and ensures safe operation.

### Know What to Do in an Emergency

If your CO detector goes off, leave your home immediately and call emergency services. Do not re-enter until authorities say it’s safe.

By staying informed and taking these precautions, you can keep your family safe from carbon monoxide poisoning this winter.



JCE Co-op  
PO Box 390  
Elizabeth, IL 61028

[jcecoop.com](mailto:jcecoop.com)

800-858-5522

[info@jcecoop.com](mailto:info@jcecoop.com)

**JCE CO-OP**  
Electric • Gas • Fiber