

Dangers Related To Snow Accumulation And Freezing Temperatures Remain

Clearing around gas appliance vents and meters and reporting gas odors still a priority

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National Grid is urgently asking Massachusetts and Rhode Island news media to continue to remind home and businesses owners that they must protect themselves from dangers associated with the record snow and cold the region is experiencing. This includes:

- Remove snow and ice that is overhanging natural gas meters and service lines. Falling ice and snow can damage this equipment and result in gas leak. Use caution and using a brush or broom is recommended.
- Take immediate action anytime you suspect a natural gas leak
- Be very cautious when working close to power lines when clearing snow and ice from roofs and around power lines
- Clearing snow from around furnace and other gas appliance vents. Failing to do so could cause deadly carbon monoxide (CO) to back up into buildings

Here are some things to remember:

Natural Gas Leaks

- All occupants should leave the house immediately. Do not use the telephone or light switches for any reason
- After leaving the house and reaching a safe environment, call the National Grid 24-hour gas emergency number: MA: 1-800-233-5325, RI: 1-800-640-1595
- Do not return to your home until National Grid tells you it is safe

Snow Clearing Safety

- Be aware of your gas meter and piping location before snow plowing or snow blowing; mechanized equipment can cause damage or leaks if it comes in contact with equipment
- Heavy snow loads and ice could damage the connections of your electric and gas service to your building
- Look at the electric connection point from a safe distance to be sure it hasn't been pulled away from the building
- Keep all ladders, shovels, roof rakes and other devices well clear of any lines coming from the street to the structure, regardless of material
- As snow is removed from roofs, decks and other overhangs, be aware of what is below that could become buried as snow hits the ground. Be especially mindful of the location of your electricity and gas meters as they could be damaged by falling snow and ice

Carbon Monoxide

- If you suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home, go outside immediately and breathe deeply; then call 911. If symptoms, such as dizziness and nausea are severe, get medical attention before calling National Grid.

