

## **Heavy snow and ice can affect natural gas meters**

The City of Round Lake reminds customers not to forget about clearing snow and ice from your gas meters as well as your furnace vents and other vents around your home.

Heavy snow accumulation can cover natural gas meters. Natural gas meters have regulators and a vent to allow gas to escape. If the vent is blocked, your gas system could malfunction.

New energy-efficient furnaces and water heaters vent out the side of a home, instead of the top. If either the side wall vent or the roof top vent becomes blocked, the furnace or water heater could stop working and create a build-up of carbon monoxide

## **Carbon Monoxide is Deadly**

Customers should also be aware of the dangers and risks of carbon monoxide. The risk of illness or death increases in the winter. Every home should have at least one working CO monitor in the home.

If the CO alarm sounds or you or family members are having symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help by dialing **911** from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrives.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning---dizziness, shortness of breath, headaches, confusion, nausea and fainting.

### **Important safety tips**

- \*Don't pile snow on or near the meter when shoveling or using a snow blower
- \*Use your hands or a brush (not a shovel) to clear snow and ice from meter
- \*Don't let dripping water or freezing rain build up on the meter. The vent can become plugged when ice and snow melt during the day and refreeze at night
- \*Never bang on the meter or pipes
- \*Carefully remove icicles hanging above the meter
- \*Check your furnace and water heater exhaust pipes. If an exhaust pipe is blocked, the furnace or water heater could malfunction or stop working or carbon monoxide could fill your home.

**If you smell gas in or outside your home, call City Hall (507-945-8127). Any questions, call Derek Nelson Gas Supervisor at 507-360-3096**