

# Get Ready For

# WINTER

## Facts About The Cold Weather Rule

- Prohibits disconnection of heat-related service from November 1 through March 31 when the temperature is forecasted to drop below 32 degrees.
- Allows you to budget your payments over 12 months.
- Does not require a deposit if payment agreement is kept.
- Allows arrearage balance to be spread out over 12 months or longer if both customer and utility agree to the time period.
- Prohibits disconnection of registered low-income elderly or disabled customers who make a minimum payment.
- Allows reconnection of your service for less than the full amount owed.



## Be Prepared For Winter

- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.
- Clean or replace furnace filters once a month.
- Make sure appliance vents and exhaust ducts are in good condition and properly connected to exhaust the combustion gases outside.
- Keep the area around the gas furnace and gas water heater clear.
- Check the chimney to make sure it is not blocked by debris or bird nests.
- Replace rusted vent pipes.

## If You Smell Natural Gas

- Don't use your phone, because it may cause a spark.
- If you smell natural gas leave your home or business immediately and then contact 911 and your natural gas provider.
- Don't smoke, light a match or use a lighter or any open flame.
- Don't operate any electrical light or appliance switches.
- Stay away from the building until you've been told that it is safe to return by officials.



## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon Monoxide is a toxic gas that is odorless and colorless. It can kill you before anyone is aware it is in your home.



- Before heating season, have your heating system checked.
- Make sure appliance vents and exhaust ducts, such as those on your furnace, water heaters and ranges, are not blocked.
- Never operate your car or other gas-powered engines (i.e. generators) in an enclosed space, such as a garage or basement.
- It is recommended that homes and businesses purchase carbon monoxide detectors, like fire alarms.