



## Landlord Automatic Transfer Program

**Landlords — Did you know you can protect your rental property from gas shut-offs when tenants move in and out of your property?**

Contact us today at **1-800-764-0111** to request a copy of the Automatic Transfer form, or download the form at [peoples-gas.com](http://peoples-gas.com) under the Get Gas/Start or Stop Service section just for landlords. When you enroll in this program, Peoples will automatically transfer the natural gas account into your name when a tenant requests a gas shut-off at the rental property. The service will remain in your name until the new tenant requests service – thus protecting the property from the loss of heat, hot water, etc. A nominal fee may apply to the transfer – call us today for more information.

## THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION



For retirees on the go, as well as for caregivers, our Third Party Notification can provide an alert in the event that gas service is in danger of being terminated. A friend, relative or other third party can agree to be notified of a possible service termination. The third party receives a copy of the termination notice and can take action to make sure gas service continues. The third party is never obligated to pay the bill.

If you would like to be designated as a third party, or if you would like to designate someone to be a third party, please call customer service at **1-800-764-0111** to request a Third Party Notification enrollment form, or download the form at [peoples-gas.com](http://peoples-gas.com) under Your Bill-Billing Options. Fill out the form and mail it to the address listed. Please note that both parties must sign the form.



PEOPLES  
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1-800-764-0111  
[Peoples-Gas.com](http://Peoples-Gas.com)

Our Values: SAFETY. CUSTOMER COMMITMENT. TRUST. COMMUNITY.

Hearing Impaired Customers Call 711 or 1-800-654-5988 TTY# 1-800-654-5984

### Emergency Service Contact Info

Our emergency personnel are on duty to assist you **24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

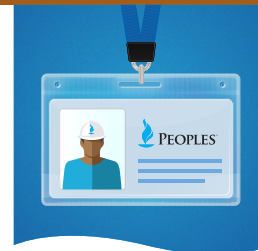
If you smell a natural gas odor, suspect a leak, or there is an explosion or fire, leave the area immediately and then call us at **1-800-400-4271.**

Please use this number only in an emergency.

**1-800-400-4271**

### ASK TO SEE ID

Remember to always ask to see ID when a Peoples service employee visits your home.



In order to give you peace of mind, Peoples requires all of its customer service employees to wear photo identification. If you don't see it when one of our employees comes to your home, ask for it. Our employees will gladly show you their photo ID.

ALL Peoples employees carry an ID card with their name, photo and the Peoples logo. Also, look for a vehicle with the Peoples logo. **Please contact customer service at 1-800-764-0111 with any questions or concerns.**



### YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

Did you know that Energy Choice is available to Pennsylvania utility customers? You do not have to purchase your natural gas from Peoples. The Energy Choice Program provides you the option of purchasing your natural gas from a state approved supplier. Visit My Account/Understand My Bill/Shop for Gas at [peoples-gas.com](http://peoples-gas.com) for additional details, or visit the Pennsylvania Gas Switch website, [www.pagasswitch.com](http://www.pagasswitch.com), for a list of Natural Gas Suppliers and current offers.

DECEMBER 2016

# PEOPLES VIEW

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM YOUR ENERGY PARTNERS AT PEOPLES.

BUSINESS HOME ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY

## WINTER BILLS TOO HIGH?

Our Budget Billing Plan lets you take control of your expenses and avoid the surprise of seasonally high bills.

COVER STORY

Details Inside



[Peoples-Gas.com](http://Peoples-Gas.com)

## BUDGET BILLING

**Budget Billing lets you take control of your expenses, giving you more predictability to make it easier to budget.**



The budget plan is your yearly consumption averaged over a twelve month period. This allows you to pay a more consistent amount throughout the year. Your account must be paid in full to enroll. Peoples calculates your budget by comparing past usage information for your home with projected weather conditions and rates.

**Joining Budget Billing is easy! Call to enroll 1-800-764-0111.**

To prevent any shortages or overages, Peoples will review your gas usage over the past quarter and adjust your budget amount higher or lower.

You can leave Budget Billing at any time; however when you unenroll, your account balance will be due in full.

## Don't Let Water Pipes Freeze!



Frozen water pipes can cause hundreds (if not thousands) of dollars' worth of damage resulting from burst plumbing to damaged walls, ceilings and floors. Before colder temperatures take hold, take time to make sure your water pipes do not freeze this winter.

Locate pipes that are most susceptible to freezing – those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or attics. Both copper and plastic water pipes can burst. If pipes are close to an exposed outside wall, open the cabinet door to let room heat in. Wrap pipes with pipe insulation or layers of newspaper with plastic to keep out moisture.

It only takes a day or two of sub-freezing temperatures to cause damage. If you plan to be away from home for a period of time, consider "winterizing" your pipes (turning off the main water valve and opening all faucets to drain the system), even if you have someone looking in on your home while you're gone. Be aware that leaks sometimes don't show up until a pipe thaws, which can cause extensive damage to walls.

If you own a rental property (vacant or occupied), check frequently to be sure the building is adequately heated or, in the case of a vacant property, consider winterizing the building as above.

If your water pipes do freeze, call a professional to thaw them. NEVER use a torch.

## KEEP METERS CLEAR – Winter Tips

Although natural gas meters are relatively weatherproof and require little maintenance, please follow the safety tips listed below to help keep you, your family and others safe.

- ❄️ **Never tie (tether) pets to gas meters** or use gas meters to hang garden hoses or other tools.
- ❄️ **Plants, shrubs, snow and debris** can block the dial face or pathway to the meter, preventing access for our meter readers. Keeping a clear path to your gas meter not only helps Peoples employees trying to perform routine maintenance, but also allows emergency responders quick access should the need arise.
- ❄️ **In the winter**, snow and ice can accumulate on a meter which may affect operation. Remove snow and ice from your natural gas meter with a broom or brush, but never kick or try to chip with a hard object.
- ❄️ **Look up!** Gutters and overhangs can accumulate ice which could break off and damage a meter if struck — or melt during the day and splash up into regulator vents then freeze again at night — which may lead to improper pressures.
- ❄️ **Keep meters at least 3 feet away** from ignition sources and from appliance vents or intakes. Appliance flue products contain moisture which could freeze in cold weather and are also corrosive.
- ❄️ **Never hang** a light bulb near a meter for heat.
- ❄️ **Gas meters with regulators require** open air around them, so never box in or wrap your meter with blankets.



## Home Heating Help is Available!

Peoples offers these programs for customers on limited or fixed incomes or who may have special needs. Contact us at **1-800-400-WARM (9276)** for details, eligibility requirements, and enrollment information.

### ▶ Customer Assistance Program (CAP)

CAP is an affordable plan for customers who meet income guidelines. Participants make reasonable payments to maintain gas service and can earn credits to reduce their balance each month. If you have received a grant from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), you may be automatically eligible to participate in CAP.

### ▶ Weatherization for High Gas Users

Under this program, an "energy auditor" visits the home and thoroughly inspects it from the basement to the attic to find where heat is escaping and where cold air is entering the home. Measures that provide the greatest energy savings will be installed and may include: heating system improvements, attic and wall insulation, and caulking and weather-stripping.

### ▶ Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Services (CARES)

The CARES program helps customers who need help with their utility bills and may be facing other challenges as well. Specialists review a customer's situation and provide referral information to the customer or family member about agencies that may be able to help, such as fuel assistance programs and social service agencies.



Check our website under **My Account/Help Me Pay** for other help available in your area.