

PEOPLES VIEW



JANUARY 2016

News you can use from your energy partners at Peoples.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



KNOW THE SIGNS

MAKING YOUR LIFE BETTER.

SAFETY. COMMUNITY. TRUST. CUSTOMER COMMITMENT.

PEOPLES-GAS.COM



Carbon Monoxide and Safety in Your Home

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and potentially dangerous gas produced when fuel is burned without enough air for complete combustion. In large amounts, CO can cause headaches, unconsciousness, brain damage and even death.

Possible Symptoms when CO is Present:

- Headaches
- Irregular breathing
- Drowsiness/fatigue
- Overall paleness
- Nausea
- Very red lips and ears

What You Should Do Right Away:

- Open windows and doors
- Move outside
- Call 911 or your local fire department

Steps You Can Take to Prevent CO:

- Have appliances checked annually by a certified heating contractor.
- Make sure your chimney is clean and free of obstructions.
- Keep air vents for your gas appliances clear.
- Never use a gas oven or stovetop for heating your home.
- Do not use portable charcoal or propane grills indoors.
- Do not run an automobile or gasoline engine in an enclosed space.
- Use properly installed space heaters that are approved by local fire codes.
- Check fireplaces for closed or blocked flues.
- Periodically check range pilots for carbon build up.
- Use a plug-in carbon monoxide monitor.

Are You Eligible for the EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT?

EITC, the Earned Income Tax Credit, is a tax credit to help you keep more of what you earn for monthly bills, home repair, or a rainy day. To qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax or are not required to file. If you were employed full- or part-time, or self-employed, in 2015, you may be eligible under the following income guidelines:

MAX. ANNUAL INCOME	SINGLE FILER	MARRIED FILING JOINTLY
With No Children	\$14,820	\$20,330
One Qualifying Child	\$39,131	\$44,651
Two Qualifying Children	\$44,454	\$49,974
Three Qualifying Children	\$47,747	\$53,267

Learn more about the requirements. It's easier than ever to find out if you qualify. Go to www.eitc.irs.gov.

 & Other Refundable Credits



WINTER BILLS TOO HIGH?

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

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 the budget plan is easy. Just call us at 1-800-764-0111 to discuss payment options.

The budget amount may not be the same each month. The budget is reviewed quarterly and may change throughout the year. You may cancel your budget plan at any time.

Keep Your Furnace Healthy

You can keep your furnace performing at its best with an annual furnace check-up.

Schedule to have your furnace and other gas appliances inspected by a qualified professional when cold temperatures arrive.

An inspection helps ensure reliable heat and can prevent potential problems. Your contractor should:

- Test the thermostat.
- Visually inspect the heat exchanger, motor and vents.
- Lubricate the blower motor.
- Check the flue.
- Check the pilot light, unless your furnace features pilotless ignition.



Also, replace your furnace filters at least three times during each heating season. Keep heat registers and cold-air returns clean and clear of furniture and draperies to help the air flow properly.

Natural Gas Pipelines Are Safe

The natural gas pipeline network spans the United States and is one of the safest modes of fuel transportation today. The industry invests millions of dollars each year on research and technology to improve the system.

To keep the network safe, the natural gas pipeline industry complies with a broad regulatory program directed by the United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration division. These regulations provide safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and testing of natural gas pipeline systems.

Pipeline Integrity Management Programs for transportation and distribution pipelines require operators to continually monitor pipeline integrity and perform risk analysis, especially in highly populated areas. Peoples utilizes preventive measures to reduce the risk of pipeline leaks or failures and to ensure the safe delivery of natural gas to homes and businesses in our service area.

For more information, please visit our website, www.peoples-gas.com, and select the Pipeline Safety tab to access the Pipeline Integrity section. Or call 866-863-6266.



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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

AVOID HAZARDS

What to Do if a Leak is Suspected

What you should **NOT** do if a leak occurs:

DO NOT touch, breathe or make any contact with a leak

DO NOT light a match, turn light switches on or off, use a cell or home phone, or do anything to create a spark

DO NOT attempt to extinguish any fire

DO NOT attempt to operate any valves

What you should **DO** if a leak occurs:

DO leave the home, building and area of the suspected leak, and get to a safe area

DO call our emergency hotline, which answers 24-hours a day at 1-800-400-4271

DO call 911 to notify police and fire officials

DO warn others to stay out of the area

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.