

PEOPLES VIEW



JANUARY 2016

News you can use from your energy partners at Peoples.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



KNOW THE SIGNS

MAKING YOUR LIFE BETTER.

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
- Drowsiness/fatigue
- Nausea
- Irregular breathing
- Overall paleness
- 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



You May Qualify for a Free Home Inspection!

The Allegheny County Health Department manages a **Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning** program covering 11 counties in Southwestern PA. Customers must be within 300% of the federal poverty level to participate, and receive a home inspection for lead paint, carbon monoxide, radon and other hazards. For more information, call (412) 350-4048 or visit <http://www.achd.net/lead/index.html>.



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.

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



Peoples
1-800-764-0111
www.peoples-gas.com

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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

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 with a list of natural gas suppliers you can choose from. Visit the Energy Choice section at peoples-gas.com for lists of suppliers and additional details about the program. Be sure to click on "For Peoples Natural Gas Customers" or "For Formerly Equitable Customers" as applicable.

