



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## **WITH WINTER'S RETURN, NIPSCO REMINDS CUSTOMERS TO STAY SAFE AND WARM IN THEIR HOMES**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – With winter-time temperatures forecasted to return to Northern Indiana this week – and furnaces expected to worker longer and harder to keep homes warm – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) is encouraging customers to stay safe by avoiding and recognizing the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning.

“With the recent warm weather, it’s easy to become complacent about home heating safety,” said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. “Now that winter has returned, we want our customers to stay warm and be safe in their homes now and throughout the remainder of the winter heating season.”

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, tasteless non-corrosive gas created whenever combustion takes place without sufficient oxygen. Carbon monoxide has proven to be very poisonous – and lethal – if allowed to accumulate in enclosed spaces. Malfunctioning appliances and/or improper venting are major sources of carbon monoxide.

***Carbon Monoxide Prevention Tips:***

- Purchase or make certain carbon monoxide detectors are operating properly.
- Make certain all fuel-burning equipment (coal, wood, natural gas, Kerosene, and fuel oil) is installed, inspected and operating properly.
- Hire a professional to install all fuel burning appliances, including ovens, stoves and clothes dryers.
- Do not cut off or restrict air sources to appliances.
- Provide adequate indoor ventilation when using fireplaces or unvented space heaters.
- Never burn charcoal indoors or in an enclosed space.
- Clean chimneys and check for blockages.
- Open garage doors before starting vehicles.

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***Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Symptoms:***

Carbon monoxide may cause any or all of the following symptoms:

- Human symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, irregular breathing, ringing in the ears, seeing spots, feeling ill or tired at home, but feeling fine away from home, as well as loss of consciousness and respiratory failure.
- Household symptoms include foul-smelling or stale air, the smell of exhaust fumes, a yellow or orange flame on natural gas ranges and stoves, as well as soot around outside of a chimney, furnace or water heater flue vent, or large areas of condensation of water vapor on walls or windows.

***What to Do:***

If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning or a natural gas leak, leave the home immediately, then contact 911 and NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726).

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com).

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