

# NEWS



A NiSource Company

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## FALL'S HERE; HOMEOWNERS SHOULD PREPARE FOR WINTER HEATING SEASON

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – With cool weather this week and the fall equinox due to arrive on Sept. 23, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) encourages homeowners to begin preparing their homes for the winter heating season.

There are a number of activities customers should do now – while the weather permits – that will put them in a position to better manage their winter heating bills. Some of these activities include:

- Contact a licensed heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor to conduct a furnace inspection to make sure it's operating efficiently and safely;
- Clean duct work and registers to remove lint, dust and other debris – and remove objects in front of registers;
- Inspect windows and doors to identify the location of cracks and crevices, and apply new caulking;
- Purchase and install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector – and replace old batteries with new batteries;
- Enroll in NIPSCO's BudgetPlan, which spreads bills out over the year and provides for predictable bills; and
- Attend the Lake County Energy Fair on Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Genesis Center in Gary, which is free to the public, to learn how to use energy wisely and safely, and access energy assistance programs.

### *About NIPSCO*

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 3.8 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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