

P the Citizens PIPELINE

November 2007

Staying Safe This Winter

Citizens Gas would like to remind everyone of these important safety tips as they prepare their home for winter.

Smell Gas?

Natural gas has an odor similar to rotten eggs so that even the smallest leaks can be detected. Follow these steps if you smell gas at your home or business:

- Do not turn on any lights or use the telephone.
- Ensure everyone leaves the home/building immediately. Use a telephone away from the building to call Citizens Gas at **924-4511**.

Please note: There is no charge for calling the gas company to check for a gas leak. Citizens Gas is available to immediately respond 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.



Call Before You Dig

If you're planning to dig a hole, tear down a building or engage in any other earth moving activity, please call **811**, at least two full days before you dig. We'll show you or your contractor where the gas lines are located and help you avoid any problems. Cutting a buried utility line can be dangerous, costly, and inconvenient. So, don't dig blind, give us a call.

Home Heating Safety

Citizens Gas urges all customers to have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on all levels of their home and establish a home evacuation plan, which they practice with their family. The utility also recommends that every home have at least one dual sensor smoke alarm, which include both ionization and photoelectric technology to detect both fast-moving and slow smoldering fires. More information about smoke alarms is available from the U.S. Fire Administration at www.usfa.dhs.gov. The utility also urges customers to be very careful using space heaters.



Natural Gas Appliance Safety

To ensure safety and efficiency, have your furnace, water heater and other natural gas appliances inspected by a licensed technician once a year. Also, do not store flammable liquids, paint or other flammable materials near a furnace, stove or water heater. Keep the lint trap on your gas dryer clean and the exhaust hose clear.

Energy Assistance

Indianapolis area residents who have no heat or are facing disconnection are reminded that energy assistance may be available by calling: 1-866-565-0197.

Customers are urged to contact the utility at 924-3311 if they are getting behind on their gas bill. Citizens Gas works with customers to set up flexible payment arrangements to catch up on past due bills.

Space Heater Safety

Citizens Gas does not recommend the use of space heaters. However, if you choose to use a space heater, please be safe.

- Fires and explosions can be caused by flammable fuels or defective wiring.
- Read and follow the manufacturers' operating instructions.
- Use space heaters that are tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing lab.
- Keep space heaters away from combustible products to avoid fire.
- Indoor air pollution could be caused by improper venting or incomplete combustion.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning is caused by improper venting of fuel burning space heaters.
- Space heaters should have a guard around the flame or coil area to protect children and pets.

- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
 - Do not use space heaters overnight in bedrooms or any room where you may sleep.
- Please call **924-3311**



for a complete copy of the recommendations and warnings

published by the Consumer Product Safety Commission's publication.

If you are currently without heat and cannot afford to have your gas service reconnected, please call **924-3311**. Help may be available.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas produced when fuels such as gasoline, fuel oil, propane, kerosene, natural gas, coal and wood do not have an adequate oxygen supply to burn completely. The most common sources are automobiles, and furnaces and boilers that haven't been properly maintained. An estimated 10,000 people are treated annually nationwide for carbon monoxide poisoning - the most common cause being vehicle fumes. Click on the link in Citizens Spotlight to find out more about carbon monoxide and how you can protect your family.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

- Flu-like symptoms: nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, vomiting, confusion.
- In many cases, victims are aware they are not well, but become too disoriented to save themselves.
- Particularly vulnerable are pregnant women. Also: small children, senior citizens and people with heart or respiratory problems.

Carbon Monoxide Safety tips

- Have professional annual inspections and cleaning of heating systems, vents, flues and chimneys.
- Occasionally conduct your own visual inspections. Look for improper connections, rust, stains or water build up.
- Never leave a car running in a garage.
- Never use gas or charcoal grills in an enclosed area.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home, especially near bedrooms. Alarms should meet requirements of the International Approval Services Standard. Alarms can be recognized by the blue star, AGA (American Gas Association) design on the package.
- If you suspect carbon monoxide, get fresh air and call 911.

Lobster Pasta with a Sun-Dried Tomato Tapenade by Chef James Williams

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. Bowtie Pasta
- 1 teaspoon of bell pepper trio
- 1 teaspoon of fresh garlic
- 1 teaspoon diced red onion
- 1 tablespoon of sun dried tomato tapenade
- ¼ cup white wine
- ½ cup of cream
- ½ tablespoon Parmesan cheese
- Meat from one lobster tail

Directions:

In a medium 10 inch sauté pan place pan on gas burner and place olive oil, wait until the oil starts to smoke lightly. Then add lobster, red onion, garlic, and the trio of peppers. Let the vegetables cook until soft or tender to the tooth. Deglaze with white wine, and then add tomato tapenade, cream and Parmesan cheese. Wait until sauce thickens, then add pasta. Garnish with parsley.

