

LIGHT READING **TMLP** Winter 2014



Stay Warm This Winter Season

Help Save On Home Heating Costs With These Helpful Tips

- If you and those in your home are healthy, lower your thermostat to about 65 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night. You can save on your fuel costs for every degree you reduce the average temperature in your home.

CAUTION: Follow a doctor's counsel on both summer and winter thermostat settings in your home.

- Keep windows near your thermostat tightly closed. Unnecessary drafts will keep your furnace working after the rest of the room has reached a comfortable temperature.

- Clean or replace the filter in your forced air system each month.

- Don't let cold air seep into your home through the attic access door. Check the door to make sure it is well insulated and weather stripped. Otherwise you'll be wasting fuel to heat that cold air.

- Dust or vacuum radiator surfaces frequently. Dust and grime impede the flow of heat. And if the radiators need painting, use flat paint, preferably black. Flat paint radiates heat more effectively than glossy.

- Sheets of aluminum foil wrapped around cardboard or Styrofoam board and placed behind radiators help to radiate heat into the room. Local hardware stores usually carry these radiator reflectors.

- For comfort in cooler temperatures, use the best insulation of all – warm clothes! For women, slacks are at least a degree warmer than skirts. For men and women, long-sleeved sweaters amount to almost two degrees in added warmth. A heavy long-sleeved sweater adds about four degrees and two lightweight sweaters add about five degrees in warmth because air between them serves as insulation to keep in more body heat.

- Move bulky upholstered furniture about six inches away from heating outlets so warm air can move freely throughout the house.



Beware Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

TMLP reminds its customers to make sure that several safeguards are in place this winter to protect against the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning in their homes.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a flammable, colorless, odorless and tasteless toxic gas that is produced during the incomplete combustion of fuel.

Here are some things TMLP customers can do to make sure their homes are safe for everyone inside: check outside vents for any obstructions, have an annual inspection of the heating system, and install a CO detector in the home.

- Newer home building designs vent exhaust pipes directly to the outside, rather than through the chimney and can be as low as 18 inches off the ground. A snowfall of 30 inches can create a hazardous situation by covering furnace, clothes dryer and hot water heater vents with snow. All outside vents should be checked after each snowstorm to make sure that CO does not come back into the house.

- Chimney flues blocked by birds' nests and other debris can also create problems in older homes. Carbon monoxide gas can also be released into the home from vent connections in poorly maintained or blocked chimneys, especially if the flue liner is cracked or deteriorated.

- New high efficiency furnaces and water heaters can also create CO gas if connected to improperly sized flues or installed using existing chimneys that may be the wrong size to allow the furnace to vent properly. A professional inspection of fuel burning furnaces, hot water heaters and stoves should be performed annually.

- Flues and chimneys should also be inspected before each heating season for any leaks or blockages caused by creosote or debris. All vents to furnaces, water heaters or boilers should be checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

Email bills@tmlp.com with comments or questions regarding this newsletter.



Bristol County Technical Rescue Team

Once again this year, the Bristol County Technical Rescue Team conducted a “confined space” rescue drill at the Cleary-Flood station on Saturday, January 4th.

The team is comprised of 53 firefighters from departments throughout the county with advanced training in technical rescue. “Confined space” is the term used to describe an area that is large enough and so configured that an employee can enter but has limited or restricted means of entry or exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy such as the inside of a storage tank or boiler.

This year’s rescue scenario was that a worker (rescue mannequin) had passed out inside the boiler, and the team was called in to extract him to safety. Teams made up of two rescuers each made entry on air supply to locate and package the victim in a harness for extrication. The victim was then safely removed from the environment with a rope and pulley system and lowered to a waiting stretcher.

“The challenge for the team this year was to conduct the drill in our new Unit 9 windbox. With internal catwalks and ladders, extraction of the rescue mannequin was made even more difficult,” said Al Costa, TMLP Assistant Chief Engineer and liaison to the BCTRT. “The guys came through with flying colors.”

TMLP was chosen for the exercise because it is deemed a ‘target site.’ “Target sites are active locations within a community that may actually require the services of a technical rescue team due to their environment and operations. We get to know the guys and they get to know our facility while conducting these exercises. It’s a win-win,” explained Costa.

TMLP Gives Back To The Community



TMLP employees have collected donations for the Taunton Boys & Girls Club over the past few months in memory of longtime Club supporter Bill Nickerson. Linda Linhares of TMLP recently presented Boys & Girls Club Board president Tom Clark with a check for \$1625 from these donations.

**Sign up for a Free Home Energy Audit!
Call 1-888-772-4242**



www.tmlp.com

55 Weir Street, P.O. Box 870
Taunton, MA 02780

Customer service for electric customers
(508) 824-6976

Outage-related call
(508) 824-3111

Administrative offices
(508) 824-5844

Dig Safe issue
(888) 344-7233

Office hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Payment locations
33 Weir Street
Our office is open
Monday through Friday

Drop boxes
33 and 55 Weir Street
(to the left of the front door)

Trucchi’s Supermarket
53 Tremont Street
534 County Street

TMLP Online help desk
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday closed

Commissioners
Joseph Martin, Chairman
Mark Blackwell Sr., Secretary
Peter Corr

General Manager
Michael Horrigan