

November / December, 2008

Issue 42

Winter Carbon Monoxide Safety

Has your furnace had its annual inspection yet? Make sure your heating equipment is installed properly. Have a trained specialist inspect and tune up your heating system each year. Annual checkups will help keep your furnace running safely and efficiently. And it you haven't already done so, install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home.

CO is produced by fuel-burning motor vehicles, appliances, and heating systems. Each year, more than 200 Americans die from carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition, several thousand individuals are treated in emergency departments for CO poisoning. The risk of CO poisoning increases during the winter, as more people run furnaces and space heaters and use fireplaces. Deaths from CO poisoning also occur when people sit in an idling vehicle with the doors and windows closed. One CDC study found that motor-vehicle-related CO poisoning exposures increase during winter months and that death rates from CO poisoning in stationary motor vehicles are highest in states with colder than average winter temperatures.

Clearing Ice and Snow

- Dress warmly, paying special attention to feet, hands, nose, and ears.
- → If possible, push snow in front of you. If you have to lift it, pick up small amounts and lift with your legs, not your back. Do not toss snow over your shoulder or to the side.
- Use rock salt or de-icing compounds to remove ice from steps, walkways, and sidewalks. Sand placed on walkways may also help prevent slipping.
- If you use a snow blower, fill up with fuel before you start, when the engine is cool.

If you plan on getting a real tree to decorate this holiday season, follow these tips to ensure the tree is fresh:

- A fresh tree is green.
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Remember to place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources that could dry the tree rapidly, creating a fire hazard.

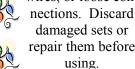


Commissioner Dave Stone of Pinckneyville with their Community Outreach Grant check. There is still time to get your application in if you have not done so already! Contact Charlene at



Holiday Lights







-Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, or other firm support to protect from wind damage.



-Use no more than 3 standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.











Keep Emergency Gear in Your Car

- Cell Phone
- Jumper Cables
- * Ice Scraper
- Blankets
- Water

- Sand or Kitty litter for Flashlight traction
- Small Shovel
- Flares
- Food

IMGA Member Communities

Aledo, Illinois Auburn, Illinois Bethany, Illinois Chester, Illinois Cobden, Illinois Corning, Iowa Creal Springs, Illinois Divernon, Illinois Enfield, Illinois Findlay, Illinois Franklin, Illinois Grayville, Illinois Karnak, Illinois Livermore, Kentucky Louisville, Illinois Milford, Illinois New Boston, Illinois Perryville, Missouri Pinckneyville, Illinois Pittsfield, Illinois Pleasant Hill. Illinois Riverton, Illinois Rossville, Illinois Tamms, Illinois Thebes, Illinois Waverly, Illinois Westville, Illinois White Hall, Illinois Winchester, Illinois

IMGA Eligible Utility

Corn Belt Energy Corporation

IMGA Welcomes New Marketing Manager



Lin Goetz joined the IMGA family on October 7th as our new Marketing Manager. Lin brings to IMGA more than 25 years experience in the energy industry. She has held positions with both AmerenCIPS and City Water Light & Power.

Lin's primary duties at IMGA will be to develop potential member relationships, maintain current member relations, increase sales revenue, and develop communication materials.

Lin is a graduate of Illinois State University and has completed coursework toward an MBA at University of Illinois-Springfield. Her interests include reading, going to movies, exercising, lifting weights, and get your clubs because she loves to golf. She has two grown daughters and enjoys being an "empty nester."

Please welcome Lin when she visits your community soon.



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