

# IMGA gas NEWS

Interstate Municipal Gas Agency

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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 if 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.



IMGA Vice President Mike Millikin presents 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 [choward@imga.org](mailto:choward@imga.org).

Winter  
Decorating  
Tips

### Safety Tips for Holiday Lights

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.
- 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 |
| * Flashlight | * Sand or Kitty litter for 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.



**Happy Holidays!**  
The staff at IMGA wishes  
you and yours a happy and safe  
holiday season!



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