Dear Valued Customer...

Hello – I’m Adam Wright, vice president of gas delivery for MidAmerican Energy. I’m happy to share this issue, which focuses on another important part of your service and my primary area of responsibility – natural gas. Natural gas is an energy source that is critical to your home and business. There are several important things to consider to ensure it is delivered and used in a safe way. Remember, our primary goal is to bring this service to you safely, reliably and affordably.

Natural gas is transmitted underground. It is odorless and colorless. Many appliances require it to function such as furnaces, water heaters, gas fireplaces and ranges. Before the gas gets to your home, it... read more...
NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES

Common gas appliances include furnaces, water heaters, gas fireplaces and ranges. Stay safe around natural gas by following these safety tips:

> Have regular inspections and maintenance done on your gas appliances.
> Keep the area around gas appliances free from obstructions and combustible materials.
> Provide MidAmerican Energy Company access to the meter and equipment when necessary.
> Never store flammable liquids in your home or near fuel-burning appliances.
> Have your gas appliance connectors checked by a qualified plumbing and heating dealer for possible defects.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NATURAL GAS

- **FIRE OR EXPLOSION:**
  - Extremely flammable – easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames.
  - Will form explosive mixtures with air.
  - Vapor may travel to ignition source and flashback.

- **HEALTH:**
  - Leaking natural gas is a health hazard. It can cause loss of coordination, dizziness, headache and asphyxiation.

CO POISONING

Any fuel that is not completely burned produces carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas. Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu-like illnesses. They include dizziness, fatigue, headaches, nausea and irregular breathing.

To guard against CO poisoning, have your home-heating systems, including chimneys and flues, inspected each year for proper operation and potential leakage.

In addition, every home should have at least one CO detector on every level. A properly working carbon monoxide detector can provide an early warning before the deadly gas builds up to a dangerous level.

If your CO detector is alarming or if you suspect CO poisoning, leave your home immediately. Seek medical attention if you or a family member is ill. Contact a qualified plumbing and heating dealer to make any necessary repairs.

LOWER YOUR ENERGY USAGE THIS WINTER

Natural gas prices for the 2016-2017 heating season are expected to be higher than prices experienced during last heating season. It’s important to remember that your actual heating costs will depend on both the price of natural gas and the amount of natural gas you use, which largely depends on how cold the weather gets. If MidAmerican Energy’s natural gas purchase costs were to remain stable this heating season as compared to last year’s heating season, customers’ bills would vary from last year because of usage. Due to these factors, MidAmerican Energy cannot predict or forecast how customers’ bills will vary this heating season. Here are some helpful tips to save money and energy this winter:

> Apply for a free HomeCheck at www.midamericanenergy.com/homecheck.aspx. If you qualify, an energy advisor will conduct an onsite energy assessment and examine your heating and cooling systems, appliances, lighting, doors, windows and insulation levels.
> Set your thermostats to 68 degrees or lower. For every degree above 68, you will increase your energy use by approximately four percent over a 24-hour period.
> Sign up for Budget Billing – a free program that will provide a predictable monthly energy bill.
> Change your furnace filters regularly. A clean air filter ensures efficient airflow while maintaining the air quality and comfort of your home.
> Check windows, doors, fireplaces and electrical outlets for air leaks. Weatherizing your home will help reduce natural gas usage and can make your home more comfortable.

DID YOU KNOW: GAS METER SAFETY

Your natural gas meter set has a regulator with a vent that helps ensure gas with the correct amount of pressure is delivered to your home. Snow and ice around the vent can affect the proper flow of gas to your appliances. To prevent this, keep the meter clear by removing snow or ice with your hands, never using a tool like a shovel. Call MidAmerican Energy at 800-595-5325 to report a problem with your gas meter.