

*Burlington Fire Department*  
*Office of the City Fire Marshal*

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**For Immediate Release**

**IMPORTANT WINTER WEATHER SAFETY MESSAGES**

With the threat of a winter storm over the days to follow in the greater Burlington area, the Burlington Fire Department would like to remind the public of key life safety messages related to winter safety:

**KEEP GAS METERS AND APPLIANCE VENTS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE**

If a vent is obstructed, an appliance may malfunction and create a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide. Snow and ice accumulation may impede emergency access to gas meters and could interfere with equipment operation. Be careful when using snow plows and don't push or pile snow around meters.

**MAKE SURE CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE DETECTORS ARE INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME**

**SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS AND BUILDING EXITS**

Make sure fire hydrants are clear of snow, at least three feet in all directions with a two foot path leading to the hydrant, so the fire department can readily find and access them during an emergency. Fire escapes, back doors and other exits should also be kept clear of snow and ice.

**CONTACT YOUR GAS COMPANY IF YOU SMELL A GAS ODOR**

Anyone who smells a gas odor should leave the area, call 911 and immediately contact their fuel supplier.

**PROTECT GAS METERS FROM FALLING ICE AND SNOW**

Falling ice and snow can damage meters and piping. If you are unable to safely remove snow & ice accumulations above meters, contact a qualified roofing contractor for safe removal. Protect the meter while you remove ice and heavy snow.

**ADDITIONAL WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS CAN BE FOUND ON:**

The Vermont Gas website at <http://www.vermontgas.com/winter/index.html>

The Vermont Division of Fire Safety website at <http://www.vtfiresafety.org>

The Burlington Fire Department website at <http://www.fire.ci.burlington.vt.us>

**END**

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