Resolve to Be Ready

Each year FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, sponsors a Resolve to Be Ready campaign. This year, this campaign focuses on seasonal preparedness.

FEMA encourages everyone to prepare throughout the year for all weather hazards during winter, spring, fall, and summer. FEMA has prepared a downloadable 2015 seasonal preparedness messaging calendar (seen on the right) to plan all of your work and home preparedness messaging and activities all year long, which can also be found by visiting:

www.ready.gov/ready2015

On that site, you will also find helpful links for planning for natural disasters and tools for helping children plan and prepare for natural and other types of disasters. We also encourage you to check back to FEMA’s site throughout the year, as information relating to specific seasonal campaigns and events draw closer.
Even those of us that have endured extreme cold and winter storms our whole life can use some safety reminders regarding cold weather readiness. One of the primary concerns is winter weather’s ability to knock out heat, power, and communication services to your office or home, sometimes for days at a time. It is important to be prepared for winter weather before it strikes. The following are excerpts from www.ready.gov/winter-weather: Build an emergency kit containing rock salt or sand, snow shovels, sufficient heating fuel, and adequate clothing or blankets. Make a Family Communications Plan. Pay attention to Weather alerts and warnings. Winterize your vehicle, including proper antifreeze levels, battery and ignition checks, lights and hazard lights, and good winter tires. Winterize your home by insulating pipes, maintaining heating equipment and chimneys, know how to shut off your water valves in the event of a burst, and ensure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside. Be carbon monoxide aware: never use a generator, grill, stove, or other gas burning device inside a home or indoor space, and install working carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home.

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Tips from Nicor: In the Event of a Natural Gas Leak:

Emergency Tips provided by Nicor Gas Company:

Call for help immediately if:
* You smell natural gas (exception: a faint odor near an appliance, that comes and goes)
* You hear natural gas leaking
* Your gas service is suddenly interrupted

Nicor gas adds a distinctive odor to natural gas as a way to alert you to a gas leak. A faint gas odor near an appliance may indicate that the pilot light has gone out. If the odor persists after re-lighting, call immediately. If you hear a blowing or hissing sound coming from a building that uses natural gas, exit immediately, leaving doors and windows open as you exit. Do not use your telephone or any light switches on your way out.

For a complete safety list and more information: www.nicorgas.aglr.com

Winter Issue Spotlight:

Question of the Quarter:

Where is your rally point?

In the event of a building evacuation, all units should have a rally point, a meeting place well away from the building where all occupants will meet once outside. The purpose is to ensure all staff are accounted for. In extreme cases, those unaccounted for will be considered trapped in the building, so it is imperative that everyone know their rally point!