

Protect your meters from harsh winter weather

As the winter season begins and snow starts to fall, Great Plains Natural Gas encourages customers to inspect their natural gas meters on a regular basis to make sure snow and ice have not built up on the meter. Customers are encouraged to carefully clear the snow and ice away from the meter set for their personal safety.



Why is it important to keep your meter clear of snow and ice?

- Accumulated snow could damage the meter and piping causing gas to leak into your home or creating a hazardous situation.
- Excessive snow cover may result in abnormal pressure, affect appliance operation and interrupt your service.
- If there is an emergency, emergency response crews need clear access to your meter.

Did you know snow and ice can damage gas meters and pipes?

Meters are designed to withstand winter weather conditions, but heavy or hard-packed snow and ice can cause damage. To avoid problems follow some basic meter protection tips:

- Keep your meter area and path to the meter clear of snow and ice.
- Use a broom to keep the snow cleared around and on top of the meter. Do not use a snow blower or shovel near the meter.
- NEVER kick or hit a meter to break away built-up snow or ice.
- Remove icicles from overhead eaves and gutters to prevent dripping water on the meter.

If you believe damage has occurred around the meter, please call Great Plains at 877-267-4764 so the problem can be repaired.

Meter Reading and Safety Requires Clear Access to Meter at All Times

Ice and snow may block the electronic reading of your meter. Our desire is to accurately bill your natural gas usage.

- Please keep the area in front of and around your gas meter clear at all times. If you are storing a boat or trailer in front of your meter, try not to completely block off the meter.
- Please contact Great Plains Natural Gas to discuss the building of decks, boxes or landscaping planned around your meter to avoid creating a hazardous situation.

If you are removing snow in Great Plains' service area, call 800-267-4764 if you are unsure of the location of energy delivery facilities.

Great Plains urges homeowners and contractors to be careful when operating snow removal equipment.

Anyone operating snow removal equipment needs to be aware of objects buried under the snow, which can include natural gas meters and risers.

Accumulations of snow and ice can cause the regulator and meter to malfunction and result in a hazardous situation. A buried regulator may become clogged, affecting the supply of gas to the appliances. When melting occurs and the snow becomes wet and heavy, it can put pressure on the meter setting and cause strain on the associated piping. In extreme cases, the possibility exists that the piping could break.

If you believe damage has occurred around the meter, please call Great Plains at 877-267-4764 so the problem can be repaired.



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