

Ten Point Furnace Safety Check

Doing a simple, ten minute check of a furnace can reduce the likelihood of serious danger from a malfunctioning system. Damaged or worn furnaces can emit lethal quantities of carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas which can cause sickness or even death.

- o Look for cracked, rusted, misaligned or clogged vents.
- o Inspect for soot in the burning area and vents – this can be an indication that the gas burner is not properly adjusted and requires servicing.
- o Clean all dust and lint near the burning chamber. Please ensure that the thermostat is in the off position prior to cleaning.
- o Check your flue assembly for alignment and rigidity; a small earthquake is all it takes to loosen the flue to allow the products of combustion into your home.
- o Make sure the flame is blue – a yellow flame may be a sign that the burner could be out of adjustment.
- o Securely fasten the door that covers the pilot light and burner area.
- o Do not store or use combustible materials or liquids near any gas appliance.
- o Clean or replace your furnace filter and make sure the blower door is properly secured.
- o Check ducts for leaks and have them properly insulated.
- o Look for cracked or frayed blower belts.

The use of open fires indoors to stay warm and save money can be deadly because burning wood and charcoal also releases carbon monoxide. Please take note of the following heating safety tips:

- o Never use barbecues or charcoal inside your home, even in the fireplace.
- o Never heat your home with a kerosene heater, gas range or other unvented appliances.
- o Don't burn treated or painted wood in your fireplace.
- o Be sure to keep combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, rugs and furniture a safe distance from heating appliances. Remember to turn them off when you leave the room for an extended period.
- o Damaged or poorly functioning natural gas equipment can not only waste money by leaking or burning gas inefficiently, but can also produce excess amounts of carbon monoxide if not adjusted properly.

For a free safety inspection of appliances, please call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

For additional safety tips and information about Pacific Gas and Electric Company, please visit our website at www.pge.com