



## WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS



### **Keep Propane Tanks & Heater Vents Clear of Snow!**

A reminder to all homeowners to keep your propane tanks and regulators, as well as heater vents clear of snow during the winter months to avoid damage that could result in a gas leak.

Exposed gas lines, regulators and meters need to be cleared of any snow to avoid blocking vents and causing regulator malfunctions that can release gas vapor into a home or business. In addition, snow accumulation can snap lines at the tank resulting in release of gas vapor into the surrounding snow that can then find its way into a home and result in an explosion and fire. The Fire Department recommends keeping the area around propane tanks free of all snow.

Residents who smell a strong or persistent gas odor should immediately leave the structure. They should not use a telephone or flashlight, switch a light on or off, pull any plugs from outlets, light a match, start a vehicle, operate a garage door opener, or do anything which could ignite the gas and cause an explosion. Use a neighbor's telephone, cell phone or any phone away from the house to call 9-1-1 to report the emergency.

### **Carbon Monoxide**

The risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning increases in the winter when home heating systems are running. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

- Change the batteries in your CO detector every six months. If you don't have a battery-powered or battery back-up CO detector, buy one soon.
- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Keep vents and flues free of debris. Debris can block ventilation lines.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open.
- Do not run a motor vehicle without confirming that your tailpipe is clear.
- If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 or a health care professional right away.

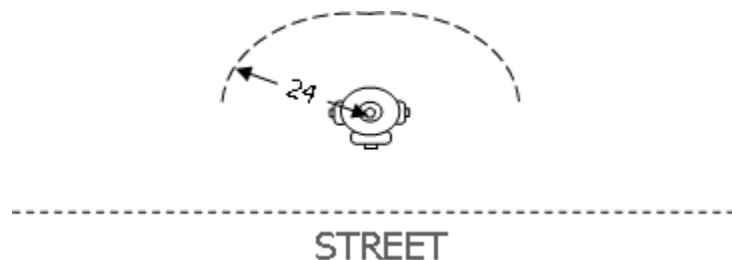
## Avalanche Safety

Parts of our community are in Avalanche prone areas. The Sierra Avalanche Center, [www.sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org) is an excellent resource for information, including advisory by elevation, current avalanche problems, conditions, observations, and weather. There is also a recorded avalanche advisory at: (530) 587-3558 x258.

Remember, if skiing in the backcountry to always ski with a (trained and equipped) buddy, carry a beacon, shovel and probe and let someone know where you're going and when to expect you back.

## Adopt a Hydrant

During winter months, maintaining access to fire hydrants is very important. It's also a real challenge. No complicated paperwork is required, and you can do your bit for neighborhood fire safety under cover of darkness for anonymity or at high noon to earn the approval and gratitude of your neighbors. When digging out a hydrant, please keep in mind that we need at least 24" clearance in all directions from the center of the hydrant - see the diagram below for an ideal job!



## Notification Systems

We continue to encourage people to sign up for Nixle, a tool for communicating emergency information to our residents. The texted information and link allow us to provide rapid and effective notification to our community - it's easy to subscribe and equally easy to unsubscribe if you choose, simply text our zip code (96146) to 888777 on your phone - you'll receive a confirmation text immediately.

Olympic Valley Fire Department has a Facebook page where more routine FD info is posted.

We also encourage people to sign up for PlacerAlert through the Placer County website at [placer.ca.gov](http://placer.ca.gov) This system enables Placer County to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

**For additional information contact the District at 530-583-4692**