Spring, 2005

9001 Hickman Road
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IOWA NATURAL GAS ASSOCIATION
Get Going With Gas

GAMA INTRODUCES "VENTING DONE RIGHT"
Wed Video for Installers, Building Inspectors and Homeowners

News Release - Arlington, VA, March 10, 2005 - GAMA, an association of equipment and appliance manufacturers in the space heating, water heating and related product industries, introduced a new flash video on its website today entitled "Venting Done Right" to increase awareness about the importance of proper selection and installation of venting systems and materials used on gas appliances.

"GAMA member companies felt that since this was a message of such consequence, we wanted to provide an information tool on behalf of the industry that helps viewers understand why proper venting is so critical," said Evan Gaddis, GAMA President.

"The most important point we want viewers to understand is that the proper venting system must be provided for the appliance. The improper selection and installation of venting systems can result in failure to adequately vent combustion products," Mr. Gaddis said. "If combustion products are not vented properly, it can lead to fire and asphyxiation hazards, appliance malfunctions and premature vent or appliance failures due to corrosion."

"Venting Done Right"
Using simple animated graphics, the video illustrates how proper venting directs combustion gases to the outside atmosphere and protects the building structure from fire hazards created by hot vent gases. It addresses issues such as proper material, sizing and location of the vent termination. The video stresses the importance of paying close attention to the appliance manufacturers installation instructions and to the National Fuel Gas Code (NFGC) to make sure the correct venting system has been installed. It also defines the four venting categories established in the safety standards for gas furnaces and boilers.

The video address both new installations and replacements. When a new appliance is purchased to replace an existing appliance, the video stresses the importance of evaluating the existing venting system to be sure it is suitable to use with the new appliance.

The video targets three separate audiences: installers, building inspectors and consumers.
Because each audience has its own level of understanding and technical knowledge, there are three variations of the video. Each can be viewed while visiting the GAMA's website at www.gamanet.org. Viewers can also download the programs for viewing offline or for educational purposes.

If you know of a company that you feel would benefit by being a member of the Iowa Natural Gas Association, please encourage them to call 515-278-8700 or email us for further information at info@iowanaturalgasassociation.org.

The Natural News

Iowa Natural Gas Association
9001 Hickman Road, Suite 220, Des Moines, Iowa 50322 **Spring, 2005**

AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION (AGA)
Natural Gas is Least Expensive Home Energy in 2005, DOE Says Remains Best Value for Seven of Last Eight Years

Washington, D.C. - Natural gas will cost less to use in 2005 than other major home energy sources, according to a notice posted in March 11 Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

One million British thermal units (BTUs) of natural gas will cost an estimated $10.92 this year - while the same amount of electricity will cost families more than twice as much ($26.55), on average, DOE said. Natural gas will also cost less than heating oil ($12.68), kerosene ($16.32) and propane ($16.94).

"These cost savings can add up quickly, especially for home-heating and water-heating," said Tom Moskitis, AGA director of external relations. "For water-heating, an average household can save about $200 per year in energy costs by using a natural gas water heater instead of a similar electric unit. That means the natural gas water heater can pay for itself after just a few years - and save a consumer nearly $1,400 in energy costs over the nine-year life of the appliance."

The least expensive way to heat a home in 2005 is with a high-efficiency (94%) natural gas furnace, according to an AGA analysis of DOE's cost projections. This option will cost consumers an estimated $704 in 2005, compared with $1,642 for the most expensive home-heating option - an electric resistance system (such as electric warm air furnace heating), AGA said.

The American Gas Association represents 195 local energy utility companies that deliver natural gas to more than 56 million homes, businesses and industries throughout the United States. Natural gas meets one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.

GOING NATURAL GAS
Never run out of gas on your grill again

Over the last few years more and more outdoor appliances have shown up that are gas powered. Patio heaters, gas fireplaces, and of course gas cooking equipment. Also grills have gotten larger and larger and much more powerful. This means that you could be burning through propane tank after tank if you spend a lot of time on the porch. So what are you going to do? Make regular trips to refill or exchange your empty propane tank? Why not go natural gas?

Natural gas has many benefits. First of all, depending on where you live it can be much cheaper, as much as a third the price of propane for each BTU. Since natural gas has half the power of propane it can actually cost a sixth as much or less than propane. Also, natural gas burns much cleaner than propane. So natural gas is better for the environment and you don't get as much exhaust from the burning propane, which can end up on your food and float around your party. Lastly, natural gas, connected to your house won't run out until the gas company does in 40 to 50 years. No more tanks to refill, no more worrying about running out in the middle of a big cook out and no more carrying those heavy tanks.

Most all gas fired outdoor appliances, whether they are grills, smoker, patio heaters, or fire pits come in a natural gas version. For many of these the difference is little more than the regulator. As I said, natural gas has about half the BTUs (amount of heat generated) as propane. Simply plugging in a natural gas line to your propane grill won't work, even if you could get the connector. If you are in the market for a new grill, think about natural gas before you buy. Most stores will have them available or can order one for you. If you already have a propane burning gas grill contact the manufacturer about getting a conversion kit. For many models you can make the conversion in a few minutes with little more than a wench.

So, whether you are in the market for a new gas grill, or want to get away from those trips to find propane, think about natural gas. Hey, it's even good for the environment. You'll find it really makes outdoor cooking relaxing and much easier.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do you have a crystal ball I could borrow? I'd like the answers to a few questions. Is gasoline going to come down significantly? Will my car last another year? Is my dog pregnant? Can I save money on high efficient gas products, etc?

The answer to these questions would help me with my financial planning. There never seems to be enough money to meet all the needs and wants of most American consumers. There is, however, help.

While the cost of living goes up, there are some measures that can be taken to lessen the increase. First, keep your dog away from the neighbor's dog. Secondly, use a synthetic oil to prolong your car's life. Thirdly, plan your outings to efficiently use your gas budget. Fourth, drink your beer at home. This alone could be a huge savings to many of us. Lastly to be mentioned, but by no means the end of possible budget cuts, yes, hi-efficient natural gas products can and do save money.

Technology in the gas industry has given many of us an extremely hot market. There is more money to be saved through efficiency than ever before. Example, do I invest my $2,000.00 in a CD at 1 ¾% and make $35.00 a year that will be taxed, or do I buy a hi-efficient gas furnace which will reduce my heating bill by 35 - 40%, saving the average person $480 - $535 non taxed.

This type of investment selling works with many of todays gas products, proving with adversity, comes opportunity. Our glass is not half empty, it is half full and fills up more and more as new material cost go up.

We need to be proud of the products we offer the public. Gas has and is still proving to be our best energy value.

Ron

Ron Wyckoff
INGA President

2005 CO-OP ADVERTISING PROGRAM
For Dealers

Iowa Natural Gas Assoc. (INGA) Dealer Members are encouraged to participate in the 2005 Co-op Advertising Program. Guidelines to participate are very easy to follow. If you'd like someone from the office to work directly with your advertising representative, have your rep call the INGA office directly at 515-278-8700.
Don't miss out on this 25% savings (with maximum of $500 for the year)
Good through December 1, 2005

NO COST/LOW COST TIPS

The Alliance to Save Energy offers consumers a wide variety of tips to fit individual pocketbooks, including no cost/low-cost money and energy saving tips.

- Listen to your mother. ("What do you think - we own the electric company?!") Turn off everything not in use: lights, TVs, computers, electronics.
- "4 for the Planet." Just replace your four most used 100-watt incandescent bulbs with four comparable 23-watt compact fluorescent bulbs to save more than $108 over three years. If all U.S. households did this, we'd save as much energy as is produced by 30 power plants annually.
- Keep your cool and lower your costs. Ceiling and other fans provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs on summer days.
- Cooling and heating account for almost half of the average family's energy bill. Clean or replace air conditioner filters monthly. Make sure your air conditioning equipment is properly maintained with a professional tune-up.
- Tired of coming home to a sweltering house on hot summer days or awakening to a chilly bedroom in winter? A programmable thermostat automatically coordinates indoor climates with your daily and weekend patterns, increasing home comfort and reducing energy bills - without you're having to "remember." It's one of the most cost-effective energy-saving investments you can make.
- No more peeping Toms. Close blinds or shades on the south- and west-facing windows of the house during summer days or install shading devices. Plant vines and trees.
- Let nature do its work and allow the sun to help heat your home on winter days by keeping blinds or drapes of sun-exposed windows open in the daytime and closed at night to conserve heat. Close all unoccupied areas and reduce heat. Close the damper on fireplaces when not in use.
- Caulk and weather strip to ensure that you're not wasting energy on heat or air conditioning that escapes through leaks to the outdoors.
- Activate "sleep" features on computers and office equipment that power down when the equipment is not in use for a while. Turn off equipment during long periods of non-use to cut costs and improve longevity.
- Consider safer, more efficient ENERGY STAR torchiere lamps over popular halogen torchiere lamps, which can CAUSE FIRES, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. While relatively inexpensive to purchase, they are expensive to operate.
- Shift energy-intensive tasks - laundry and dish washing - to off-peak energy demand hours to increase electricity reliability during heat waves.
- Do full loads when you use clothes washers, dryers, and dishwashers.
- Use dimmers, timers, and motion detectors on indoor and outdoor lighting.
- Use a microwave oven instead of a conventional range or oven when possible.
- Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use.
- Car tips. Properly inflate tires. Under inflated tires can increase fuel consumption by six percent. Avoid jack-rabbit starts: accelerate slowly when starting from a dead start. Combine your errands into one trip to save on fuel. Keep your car properly tuned up and change your air filter. (More tips at Gas Tips).
- Free Alliance to Save Energy resources. Obtain a free booklet, Power$mart: Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet, by calling 1-888-878-3256 or previewing an animated web version. An interactive Home Energy Checkup allows handymen (or women) to troubleshoot their homes' energy waste while calculating efficient improvements.
- Free Department of Energy resources. Obtain a free booklet, Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home, in English or Spanish by calling 1-877-337-3463 or online and view an animated version at www.energysavers.gov.
- Free Environmental Protection Agency resources. Obtain a free copy of Guide to Energy-Efficient Cooling and Heating which is available at www.energystar.gov from the heating and cooling product pages or by calling 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937). Download the ENERGY STAR Action Guide 5 Steps You Can Take to Reduce Air Pollution.
- Free home insulation booklet from North American Insulation Manufacturer's Association (NAIMA).
- Free booklet for New Yorkers: It's Right. . . and Right at Home, a brochure with energy-saving tips. Contact 877.NY-SMART (877.697.6278) or residential@nyserda.org. For more tips, visit www.GetEnergySmart.org, the consumer web site of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

NO COST/LOW COST TIPS

2006 NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE.

The Natural Fuel Gas Code has a 3 year cycle and the 2002 Edition will be updated in 2005 and will be available in 2006. The following is a list of Major Proposals to the 2002 Edition from AGA.

List of Major Proposals to the 2002 Edition Updated: 3/14/05
The following list are the major revisions to the 2002 National Fuel Gas Code accepted by the National Fuel Gas Code Committees, ANSI ASC Z223 and NFPA 54, for inclusion into the 2006 edition. The section numbers reflect the order of 2002 chapters to facilitate comparisons between the 2002 and 2006 editions. The order of chapters in the 2006 edition is being revised.

PIPING

Section	Subject	Description of Change
5.6.4.2	PVC regulator vent piping	New. Allows the use of PVC pipe and fittings to vent regulators, must comply with UL 651 schedule 40 and 80, can only be installed outdoors.
6.1.6.2	Piping beneath floors	New. Permits the conduit required for piping located beneath floors to both originate and terminate within the building.
6.1.7.2 (2)	Plastic/Metal transitions	New. Adds ASTM F1973 transition fittings as an acceptable fitting
6.2.6.3	Piping support on roofs	New. Requires piping installed on roofs to be supported in accordance with table 6.2.6.2.
6.2.8	CSST Installation	New. Specific statement added that CSST is to be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and the provisions of the code.
6.5.3	Mitered bends	Delete. Code coverage for mitered bends is deleted.
C.3.4	NG pipe sizing method	New. Adds a method and an example on how to size natural gas piping systems by using 100-foot pipe lengths.
C.7.5	Pressure Testing	New. Adds an example on how to calculate pressure drops due to ambient temperature changes.
D.3 (2)(b)	Leak Testing LP systems	New. Adds a method using a 30-pound pressure gauge to leak test LP systems.

VENTING

Section	Subject	Description of Change
10.3.6.2	Vent passing through ceiling plenum	Revise. Vents passing through above ceiling plenums must be either sealed, be of the positive pressure type with joints sealed, or have no joints in the space.
10.6.2	Rooftop vent termination	Revise. Require natural draft vents terminate a minimum 3-ft above any forced fresh air intake located within 10-ft. Same as mechanical draft systems.
10.6.4.1	Multistory vents	Revise. Crawl spaces, basements and attics are considered floor levels in designing multistory venting systems..
10.7.2	Single wall vents	Revise. Defines a cold climate as regions where the 99 percent winter design temperature is below 32o F.
13.1.8(New) & 13.2.20 (New)	Connection to chimney liner	New. Requires the use of listed adapter when connecting a double wall vent connector to a chimney liner.
13.1.9 & 13.2.20	Type B vent installed outdoors	Revise. Allows the outdoor installation of Type B vents where installed in a non ventilated and insulated chase.
13.1.9 (New) & 13.2.20 (New)	Draft hood conversion kits	New. Requires draft hood conversion kits used with listed fan-assisted appliances to be listed and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION

Section	Subject	Description of Change
3.3.79	Definition: Equipment	Revise. Equipment are devices other than appliances, appliances use fuel.
Various sections	Terms "Equipment" & "Appliance"	Revise. Replace "gas utilization equipment" and similar terms with "appliance." Appliances are defined as devices that use fuel, new equipment definition added (see above).
Various sections	Installed in accordance with it listing	Revise. Eliminate the use of the phrase "installed in accordance with its listing." Replace with "installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions."
8.5	Appliances in attics	New. Requires minimum ceiling opening, platform and walkway dimensions; requires electric outlet & lighting be installed.

continued on next page

2005 Average Home-Heating Costs

(Calculated by AGA, based on DOE energy-cost estimates)

HOME-HEATING EQUIPMENT	2005 AVERAGE ANNUAL OPERATING COST*
94%-efficient natural gas furnace	$ 704
80% -efficient natural gas furnace	$ 826
84%-efficient oil furnace	$ 946
94%-efficient propane furnace	$ 1,079
80%-efficient propane furnace	$1,267
Electric 6.8 HSPF heat pump	$ 784
Electric resistance furnace	$1,642

2005 Average Water-Heating Costs and Lifetime Energy Savings
(Calculated by AGA, based on DOE energy-cost estimates)

WATER-HEATING EQUIPMENT
Consumer note: over the average life of a water heater, you would spend $1,400 more to use an electric water heater than a natural gas water heater.

	AVERAGE ANNUAL OPERATING COST (2005)*
Natural gas - typical	$277
Electric - typical	$432

The American Gas Association represents 195 local energy utility companies that deliver natural gas to more than 56 million homes, businesses and industries throughout the United States. Natural gas meets one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.

** These estimates by the American Gas Association are based on DOE's 2005 representative annual costs of energy, using equipment listed in the latest Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute equipment directories. The estimate is based on a 2,072 square-foot home located in a moderately cold temperature region, such as St. Louis, with updated energy efficiency features that reflect the 2003 "International Energy Conservation Code." Homes with less insulation, more floor space and located in a colder climate can expect to have higher costs for appliances using all types of energy.*

NO COST/LOW COST TIPS cont.

8.5.1 (4)	CSST connected directly to appliances	Revise. CSST can be directly connected to "fixed" appliances only.
8.5.1 (4)	Z21.75 Connectors	New. Adds connectors listed to ANSI Z21.75/CSA 6.27, Connectors for Outdoor Gas Appliances and Manufactured Homes as an acceptable connection.
8.5.1 (8)	Appliance connectors & tubing	New. Requires connectors and tubing that pass through an appliance housing to be protected against damage.
8.5.4	Equipment shutoff valves	Revise. Allows alternate shutoff valve locations for manifold systems and for appliances installed in fireplaces. For manifold systems the shutoff valve may be located up to 50 ft away, be tagged and accessible. Piping from shutoff valve to within 6 ft of the appliance shall conform to all of the code's piping requirements.
9.28.1.2	Water heater location	Deleted. Eliminates the requirement that the water heater be located as close to the vent as possible. Requirement is unenforceable.
9.28.7	Water heater expansion tanks	Deleted. Eliminates all coverage for plumbing expansion tanks. Plumbing issue to be left to the plumbing codes.
11.1.1 & A.11.1.1	Adjusting Input	Revise. Replace Table 11.1.1 with a new table to be located in Annex A. The new table includes three common meter pressures. Add new expanded Annex A material to enable calculation of inputs rates for other than those listed in the table. Adds a warning statement that appliances can be seriously over fired if not put on rate.