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BLACK HILLS ENERGY'S TIPS FOR A WARM, SAFE WINTER

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 12, 2009 – Natural gas is a clean, safe, reliable source of energy when used properly, and it is the preferred fuel for heating by more than 70 million U.S. homeowners. With winter around the corner, homeowners will soon be turning their gas-fueled furnace on for the winter heating season, and Black Hills Energy encourages its customers to make sure their gas heating systems and appliances are clean and working properly before using them this fall.

“It’s important customers have their heating and ventilating equipment inspected annually by a professional,” said Dan Mechtenberg, Black Hills Energy vice president of operations for Nebraska.

“All gas operated appliances require adequate air for complete combustion and must be properly ventilated to ensure safe and efficient operation. An annual inspection and tune-up by a heating professional can ensure that a customer’s heating equipment is using energy efficiently and keeping them safe and warm as it was designed to do,” Mechtenberg said.

Heating systems that are not operating properly have the potential to produce carbon monoxide. Signs of a potential carbon monoxide leak can include, but are not limited to, physical flu-like symptoms such as a scratchy throat, runny nose, headache, drowsiness or nausea. Other indicators could include excessive humidity, such as frosted windows, or a draft from the front of the furnace when it is not turned on. Properly functioning carbon monoxide detectors may offer early warning to consumers.

Black Hills Energy recommends customers have their carbon monoxide detectors, central heating systems, and natural gas appliances inspected on a regular basis to verify they

are properly functioning. “If a customer has questions about home heating safety, we encourage them to call us,” said Mechtenberg.

If you think carbon monoxide is getting into your home or if you think you smell natural gas, leave the premises immediately. Do not use the phone in the house or turn off any lights as you leave the house. Call Black Hills Energy’s 24-hour emergency line, 800-694-8989, from a nearby location to be safe.

Black Hills Energy customer service associates are also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for non-emergencies and can be reached at 888-890-5554.

Black Hills Energy serves 197,400 natural gas customers in 110 eastern Nebraska communities. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — is based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 759,000 natural gas and electric utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company’s non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at www.blackhillscorp.com.

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