



Upper Peninsula Power Company

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Media Hotline

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## **UPPCO Reminds Customers to be Safe when Dealing with Snow**

Ishpeming, MI – With the advent of snow Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) is reminding its customers to take the following steps in the name of safety:

- High winds or snow pulling on branches may lead to downed power lines and create dangerous situations. Please report any downed UPPCO lines to by calling 800-562-7809. Additionally, take special care while working near power lines when removing snow from rooftops. Plowing and snowblowing large areas can result in tall snow piles that can come dangerously close to overhead power lines. Children must be cautioned not to play on these piles.
- Be aware of the condition of electric meters. Snow and ice buildup around meters could lead to meter damage and a disruption in energy service. Homes and businesses that have snow plowed from driveways, parking lots or access roads should take care that plow operators do not push wet, heavy snow into meters. The meters could become damaged and possibly cause service interruptions. Additionally, remember that UPPCO workers need to reach meters in order to read them throughout winter.
- Customers with high-efficiency furnaces and water heaters that vent through the wall (not into a chimney) should be wary of a buildup of snow or ice around the vent. High-efficiency equipment provides great savings, but a blocked vent could cause the heating system to malfunction by shutting off or, in extreme cases, lead to an accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home. Customers should check the outside vents just to make sure they are not covered with snow or ice. Heavy snow and high winds could provide conditions that may result in blocked vents.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, tasteless, odorless, undetectable poisonous gas. At high concentrations, carbon monoxide can be fatal within minutes. CO results when there is an improper and/or inefficient burning of fuel. Customers who experience flu-like symptoms only when at home should arrange for a carbon monoxide check from their local emergency agency immediately. Customers who are not already using a carbon monoxide detector should strongly consider purchasing one, said UPPCO officials.