



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor

Public Housing Notice 2015-04

TO: All LHA Executive Directors and Maintenance Staff

FROM: Steven Carvalho, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance
James Marathas, Director of Facilities

SUBJECT: Snow Removal from All Gas Vents and Intakes, Carbon Monoxide poisoning a high concern

DATE: February 6, 2015

Due to the excessive amount of snowfall in recent days and the anticipated storm forecast for this weekend, we are urging all Housing Authorities to take measures to ensure there is no snow and ice accumulation on furnace vents. Blocked vents can lead to potentially deadly carbon monoxide levels in homes. A blocked vent can affect the performance of the furnace.

Accumulated snow and ice can damage natural gas meters, which can lead to potentially dangerous gas leaks.

To avoid problems:

- Take care when using a snow thrower or plow near your meter.
- Use a broom to gently brush snow off the meter.
- Avoid kicking or hitting the meter to break away built-up snow or ice.
- Always shovel away from the meter.

Keep furnace and dryer vents, intake valves and chimneys, free of snow and ice in order to keep the heat on and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Please be reminded you should make sure all carbon monoxide detectors are functioning when required.

If you detect any problems you should immediately open all doors and windows and leave the building.

If you experience symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning which include headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath and stinging or burning eyes - call 911 for help.