

**RELEASE DATE: January 1, 2018**

For additional information, please contact:

**Karen L. Merkel, 716-857-7654/716-609-0438**

## **Winter Is Officially Here... And The Temperatures Will Soon Prove It** *National Fuel provides secure winter supplies and safety tips to keep everyone warm this holiday season*

(December 21, 2018) **Williamsville, New York** -- December 21st marks the official start to winter and predicted temperatures within the coming holiday week have daytime highs not expected to get out of the teens with overnight lows in the single digits. The bitter temperatures are expected to significantly boost demand for natural gas to heat homes and businesses across Western New York.

Customers of National Fuel can be assured that the Company has made arrangements for a steady supply of natural gas to meet the demand this winter. Nearly 100 percent of the natural gas used currently by National Fuel customers is produced in the northeast, with 90 percent of that gas coming from nearby, neighboring states.

“Although drilling for natural gas has been banned in New York state, our customers enjoy the benefits of Marcellus Shale production taking place in Pennsylvania and transported to utility customers via interstate pipelines,” said Karen L. Merkel, spokesperson for National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation. “The Company’s careful gas procurement plan and geographic proximity to pipeline capacity and natural gas production, provides an advantage to our customers.”

It is important for natural gas customers to pay attention to outdoor gas meters, furnaces, and vents throughout the winter season. Snow, ice, and extreme cold temperatures can pose a variety of safety and performance issues for heating systems. Natural gas furnaces and fireplaces have a vent pipe or flue that sends exhaust and gaseous byproducts outdoors through a chimney or pipe. Furnace exhaust vents can become easily clogged by debris, ice, or snow, causing the furnace to shut off or operate inefficiently. Blocked vents also can lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide gas inside a residence.

Ensure outdoor gas meter safety and proper service by:

- Keeping the gas meter, and area around the meter, free of snow
- Clearing paths to the meter
- Informing those working, shoveling, plowing, or snow blowing around a meter of its location
- Calling National Fuel, 1-800-365-3234, if a meter becomes encased in ice; do not attempt to break or melt the ice
- Exercising caution when removing icicles from a meter or any area of the roof above the meter
- Not letting children play or climb on the meter

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and potentially dangerous gas produced when fuel (heating oil, propane, kerosene, charcoal, gasoline, wood, or natural gas) is burned without enough air for complete combustion. If inhaled in large quantities for a prolonged period of time, carbon monoxide can cause unconsciousness, brain damage, and death. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include: fatigue, coughing, headache, irregular breathing, dizziness, overall paleness, nausea, and cherry red lips and/or ears. Those experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning should immediately open windows and doors, move outside, and call 911.

As always, if you Smell Gas, Leave Fast: If a rotten-egg natural gas odor is present, leave the premises immediately and call National Fuel's emergency line, 1-800-444-3130, from a different location. If you smell an odor of gas outdoors, please call National Fuel's emergency number and provide the address nearest to the site of the odor. To learn more about natural gas safety, visit

<https://www.nationalfuelgas.com/utility/gassafety.aspx>.

National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation is the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, a diversified energy company that is engaged in a number of natural gas-related activities. The Utility provides natural gas service to more than 740,000 customers in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [www.nationalfuelgas.com](http://www.nationalfuelgas.com).