It's more than staying warm. It's staying safe.

At NIPSCO, we want you to get the most from your utilities. And as the temperature drops outside, we also want to make sure you have the knowledge you need to stay safe inside. With that in mind, here are a few tips for having a very warm and very safe winter.

- Change your furnace filter once a month to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If you smell natural gas, leave your home immediately and call 911 and NIPSCO from a neighbor's home.
- Turn off holiday lights at night and when you leave your home to prevent fire.
- Never use stoves, ovens or outdoor grills to heat your house.
- Use sturdy screens or glass doors to keep burning embers inside fireplaces.
- Burn only seasoned hardwood in your fireplace. Burning trash, cardboard, Christmas trees or lumber could be toxic.

- Keep fire extinguishers charged and place near kitchens and basements.
- Install at least one smoke detector on every level of your home.
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector near sleeping areas.
- For both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, test batteries once a month and replace once a year.
- Use space heaters sparingly and place in the center of the room.
- Never use flammable liquids, such as gasoline, to start or accelerate a wood stove/fireplace fire.

