

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—

Business & Repair Office Hours
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business Number:
829-8726

Repair Number:
829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:
218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG
WWW.BPU.ORG

Facebook:
Brainerd Public Utilities



Call Gopher State One
Call at 1-800-252-1166 for water & electric locations before digging.

All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least 2 business days before digging begins.

All Electrical Work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed with the State of Minnesota.



Thanksgiving,
after all,
is a
word of
action.

W.J. Cameron

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR WINTER



With the change of season there are some important steps to prepare your home for winter. Most important is the furnace. To prevent carbon monoxide (CO) problems, have your furnace checked by a qualified service person. You can replace the filter on the furnace and make sure the outside combustion air duct is not plugged. The furnace needs air to operate properly—both the outside air and the return air. A clean filter allows the return air to circulate better through the duct system and removes dust. Fresh outside air allows the burner to operate more efficiently and save energy.

Proper adjustment of the burner by a qualified service person will produce less CO. Be sure to plug in CO detectors to check CO levels in your home.

A humidifier on the furnace also needs annual maintenance. The filter should be replaced, and a leak check performed after the water supply has been turned on. Now would be a good time to shut off your outside faucets too. Turn the valve inside the house off and open the outside faucet to drain any residual water and then close the faucet. Lawn and sprinklers should also be winterized.

Another important component is the dryer vent. The dryer will work more efficiently if the duct and hood termination on the outside of the home is unobstructed and clear of debris such as lint. Lint and debris can build up in your dryer and back up

dryer exhaust gasses that create a fire hazard. The duct should be cleaned by a qualified service person. They have proper tools and know whether your dryer vent meets code.

The holiday lighting season is right around the corner. Take care when installing lights to avoid overloading electrical outlets by using power strips with surge protection. Check electrical cords for damage or frayed wires and replace if necessary. All exterior outlets should be GFI outlets, also replace unprotected outlets.

Be sure to test smoke detectors and replace the batteries. Newer homes have electric smoke detectors, but they also have battery backup that should be checked. Have a safe and warm winter!



FAST AND FREE

Here are some suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

1. Let the sunshine in. Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free (get them closed again at sundown so they help insulate).
 2. Rearrange your rooms. Move your furniture around so you are sitting near interior walls, exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty. Don't sit in the draft.
 3. Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it. This seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25 percent to your electric bill. Turn off kitchen and bath ventilating fans after they've done their job. These fans can blow out a house full of heated air if inadvertently left on.
1. Shorten showers. Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs.
 2. Use appliances efficiently. Do only full load when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can.



Prevent Water Pipe & Meter Freeze-Up

Check the cold air intake for your furnace to ensure the cold air does not come into direct contact with the concrete floor, water meter or pipes.



Join Your Neighbors Who Care By Giving To HeatShare

HeatShare is a voluntary program administered by The Salvation Army. When you give you are helping warm the lives of the elderly, disabled, and others who have nowhere else to turn. It helps the needy survive our long winter by providing funds for heating bills and heating related repairs.

HeatShare is a last resort for many who have no other resources available to see them through the winter. You can also donate online at <https://donate.salvationarmyusa.org/northern/heatshare>

Who is eligible for HeatShare?

- Seniors with low incomes and no alternate source of help.
- Disabled people whose physical capabilities limit their ability to maintain income to adequately cover energy bills.
- People who have had unexpected emergencies within the last 12 months and as a result cannot pay for household energy costs.
- People who meet income guidelines and have received or applied for all other possible public funds.



share the warmth

Cold Warm Hands Hearts

Who supports HeatShare?

You, neighbors, friends, people in big cities, people in small towns, and businesses all help by sending a tax deductible contribution with the form provided below. **HeatShare is one way a small amount can help in a big way.**

YES! I want to contribute to HeatShare!

I am making a one-time contribution of: \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Account Number: _____

Signature: _____

Please make **check payable to HeatShare** & enclose this form with your utility payment in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your generous tax deductible contribution!