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## Media advisory

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### **Safety Alert: Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power urge customers to keep utility meters free from snow, ice**

As winter continues to pack a wallop, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power are issuing an important safety message, reminding customers to keep their electric and natural gas meters clear of ice and snow to keep their families safe, avoid service interruptions and to prevent damage to equipment.

**At SWL&P, natural gas customers are urged to check their natural gas meters** and regulators for accumulated snow and ice. Snow or ice build-up around the gas meter and regulator could lead to hazardous gas leaks.

“The safety of our customers and community is important to us and keeping gas meters clear is imperative to ensure that equipment works properly and to avoid potential safety hazards,” said Harper Brickson, manager SWL&P Customer Experience.

Here are tips for safely clearing your natural gas meter:

- Use your hand, a broom or soft brush to remove snow and ice around the piping and on top of the meter assembly. Never use sharp objects, a shovel or a blower.
- Remove any large icicles hanging above the natural gas equipment.
- Maintain a clear path to your meter.
- If you have any problems clearing your gas meter equipment, please call SWL&P at 1-800-227-7957.

**Customers at both utilities also are urged to check their electric meters** and keep them clear of snow and ice. Here are some important points to keep in mind:

- Snow, icicles falling from the eaves, or water dripping from the roof and freezing on your meter socket may interfere with how the electric meter operates or damage the equipment. Crews may be dispatched to ensure power is safely connected if there is an alert from a meter.
- There is no need to report there is ice on your electric meter. You can gently remove accumulating snow by hand but if your electric meter becomes encased in ice, do not try to melt or chip the ice.



- Be aware of your surroundings when clearing snow and ice from your roof and know the location of power lines. Always be cautious around power lines and do not touch them. Always assume that downed wires are energized.

For more information, visit [www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter/SpringSafetyMessage](http://www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter/SpringSafetyMessage).

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).

Superior Water, Light and Power provides electricity, water and natural gas in the city of Superior and adjacent areas in northwestern Wisconsin. The company has served the area since 1889 and provides services to approximately 15,000 electric customers, 13,000 natural gas customers and 10,000 water customers. More information can be found at [www.swlp.com](http://www.swlp.com).

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