SEPTEMBER • MISSION 09

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Furnace Briefing

Heating-season preparation and the safety checks that matter most.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

Heating season starts now. Working CO and smoke alarms are the cheapest safety equipment in the house, and the furnace has been idle for months.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Replace the furnace filter.
- Test CO and smoke alarms: press the button. Replace any unit past the date printed on its label.
- On the first furnace run of the season, just listen. A brief dust smell is normal; note short-cycling, banging, or burning odors.
- Make sure vents aren't blocked by rugs or furniture, and keep storage away from the furnace and water heater.

SAFETY: DO NOT open or work on furnaces, burners, or any fuel-gas equipment. If you ever smell gas, leave the house and call your gas utility from outside.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Short-cycling: the furnace turning on and off in quick bursts
- Banging, screeching, or grinding sounds
- A burning odor that doesn't clear within a few minutes
- CO or smoke alarms past their labeled date, or dead

/ WHY IT MATTERS

Heating season starts now, and working CO and smoke alarms are the cheapest safety equipment in the house.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Strange sounds or odors that don't clear, short-cycling, or a system that never got checked

Combustion-safety testing and a performance check make sense before winter.

QUICK WIN

Test every CO and smoke alarm tonight. 5 minutes. Write down any that need replacement.

Home Missions is educational guidance. Never attempt work involving fuel gas, combustion equipment, dangerous electrical conditions, roofs, or hazardous materials.

