

# VINCENT'S NEWS

## The 'Van-Go' Gallery



### OWNER'S CORNER

62 Years of Excellence!



Best Residential HVAC Company  
Best Plumbing Company

## THROUGH MY EYES

*"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."*

Well, here it is, the last issue of Vincent's News for 2021. This is my combined holiday issue and in keeping with the Thanksgiving tradition, I have a lot of things I am thankful for to share.

this year! God blessed Karen and me with two beautiful grandsons. In February, Henry Bryan Squires was born to our son Bryan and his wife Erika, followed by Atticus Ray Squires in



Here I am with my new grandsons, Henry (left) & Atticus (right). - Daniel

On the top of my list is that I finally became a grandpa

August, born to our son, Brendan, and his wife Chelsie. Both

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### Fall Tips...

>Be sure to disconnect any hoses connected to outside faucets to avoid split pipes and freeze damage.

>Take a walk around your house to make certain there are no openings or loose crawlspace hatches that can cause your pipes to freeze.

## A Very Dangerous Carbon Monoxide Safety Issue Explained

Recently one of our techs encountered a dangerous situation on a furnace maintenance call: The amount of carbon monoxide was 5-times higher than allowable safe levels per industry standards.

According to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z21.47, the level of carbon monoxide in a furnace or boiler cannot exceed 400 ppm (parts per million). In this instance the

furnace carbon monoxide level was 2,000 ppm – 5-times the maximum allowable level.

Per the ANSI standard, if the amount of CO being generated cannot be reduced to an allowable level the furnace or boiler is considered unsafe and should not be used. All of our technicians are certified Carbon Monoxide & Combustion Analysts – a distinction that less than 2% of all HVAC technicians have

earned, but that I have gone to great expense to provide for your and our other client's safety. As a result, they have a greater knowledge base to understand CO dangers. They also have the knowledge of the tasks needed to lower the CO level if it is possible. In this situation, there was nothing to be done about the excessive CO. The furnace was unsafe and should not be run.

**Continued Page 2**

## Carbon Monoxide Issue... (Continued from Pg.1)

When our tech showed the customer the unsafe CO level being produced, and informed him that the furnace was unsafe, the customer refused to accept the diagnosis. Essentially, he had two arguments for rejecting this information.

- 1) The CO measured was not in the house – it was in the furnace exhaust and was being vented outside the house, Therefore, he reasoned, the furnace was still safe.
- 2) Even if it got in the house, he said he had a CO alarm that would warn him of the danger.

The reason for the ANSI standard is to prevent dangerous CO levels in the home should the furnace vent pipe become blocked or disconnected. If this were to happen, an extremely deadly amount of CO would stop venting out the chimney and instead dump into the living space. And since heating appliances are not built with a failsafe to shut the furnace or boiler off when high CO levels

are present, the only solution is to consider the appliance unsafe to use. A similar hazardous situation exists when a breach or crack develops in a furnace heat exchanger.

In regard to his second argument, that he could rely on his CO alarm, I need to provide some perspective about the danger of high levels of carbon monoxide.

- **At 200 ppm**, CO will produce headaches after 2 -3 hours.
- **At 800 ppm**, CO will cause unconsciousness in less than 2 hours, and death in 2-3 hours.
- **At 1600 ppm**, CO symptoms will appear immediately and will cause death in 1 hour!
- **At levels above 12,000 ppm**, death will occur in minutes. (Yes, we find levels this high and even higher more often than you might think!)

Now realize that these time guides only apply for healthy individuals in prime condition. They don't apply for

children and infants (and pets!) with lower body mass and for seniors and people with compromised health and immunities. For these individuals, CO symptoms and death would happen much sooner.

In this situation, this was a 90-year old man, and should the vent become blocked or disconnected if he was asleep, he might not hear the CO alarm and wake before being overcome. A CO alarm is important, but it should only be your very last line of defense. ***I provide more insight about CO alarms in the nearby inserts. Plus there is an important notice about supply chain shortages.***

The potential danger from Carbon monoxide is a very important reason why it is important to have all your gas appliances checked annually for safety. This includes your gas water heater along with your furnace or hot water boiler. I have included an insert about our Plumbing & Water Heater Service.

– Daniel Squires



Vincent's Heating & Plumbing is proud to install Amana equipment, made in the USA.

## Through My Eyes (Continued from Pg. 1)

babies are healthy and very loved by their grandparents!

In addition, our daughter Alanna got engaged in July to her long-time boyfriend, Joe Ausberry from the Troy area. What a blessing - we got two grandsons and another son in 2021!

Another blessing is that our oldest son, Brendan, works in Vincent's Heating & Plumbing with me as an HVAC technician and plumbing apprentice. I was so glad for the opportunity for the many years that I had to work with my father, Ray Squires, along with my brother David. Now I get to share the experience with my son.

I'm also blessed to have my brother as my business partner. We both graduated from college in 1984, David, with his double major in HVAC & Business Administration from Ferris State, and me with my B.S. in Accounting from Walsh College. We both had worked in Vincent's growing

up, and after briefly exploring our options, we both decided to join the business and it was a great decision that I have enjoyed for a long time.

Some fathers have a hard time letting their children 'spread their wings' in a family business, but not our dad. David went to work growing the technical field side of the business, while I put internal systems in place to support the growth. As a result, dad was able to enjoy watching the business grow from a 'mom & pop' operation of about 6 employees to the large business that Vincent's Heating & Plumbing is. He would have been so proud for us to receive the Times Herald's 'Best of Best' awards for best HVAC company and best Plumbing company earlier this year!

While many businesses have suffered manpower issues and supply chain shortages over the past 18 months. We are very fortunate on both fronts. The team has actually

grown since COVID hit in 2020, and we have added sewer cleaning and renewed our focus on air duct cleaning. We have also avoided supply chain shortages by stocking up with product in advance of problems. As a result, we have both the technicians and the product to take care of our clients should the need arise.

*(One exception is that we can't get anymore of NSI 3000 low level CO Monitors due to the supply chain crisis - please see the notice in the nearby 'CO STATISTIC' insert.)*

I am also thankful for every member of our team - from the field techs to the office staff and to our team leaders. Each of them does a great job and I am proud of them all. Finally, I am thankful for you and our other clients for giving us the opportunity to serve.

May God bless you and your loved ones during this holiday season and in 2022!

- Daniel Squires

## What Our Clients Are Saying...

"What expert service! You can't substitute knowledge and experience when it comes to furnace and boiler systems; fortunately, VHP has Greg and a staff of highly trained professionals. Simply put: they are the best!"

- Peyton Towler, Port Huron

## College Nicknames

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Vincent's News is published 11-months per year.

This is the last issue of 2021.

S	L	I	V	E	D	N	U	S	X	C	S	H	Y	C	I	X	S	G	B	S	O	Aggies
B	L	S	T	A	C	R	A	E	B	H	S	L	J	V	Y	O	O	W	R	W	C	Bearcats
L	C	I	S	N	A	J	O	R	T	I	R	V	E	P	Y	O	C	E	B	P	I	BlueDevils
H	S	R	V	S	E	L	G	A	E	P	O	C	B	B	H	G	N	Y	U	A	R	Broncos
M	S	L	A	E	F	D	T	R	K	P	T	L	A	Y	E	O	O	V	S	A	Y	Bruins
O	M	I	E	J	D	S	E	R	V	E	A	L	S	V	O	R	R	C	V	S	C	Buckeyes
U	E	T	R	E	N	E	E	F	S	W	G	X	F	S	A	E	B	E	D	O	G	Cavaliers
N	Q	E	Q	I	H	L	U	J	D	A	L	I	O	N	S	L	N	A	R	W	S	Chippewas
T	Q	R	U	W	G	R	O	L	Z	S	G	Q	Z	D	X	S	I	N	M	E	E	Cornhuskers
A	L	R	P	F	N	N	A	N	B	U	C	K	E	Y	E	S	H	E	I	A	L	Eagles
I	B	A	C	H	Q	G	I	T	G	E	K	G	Y	K	W	U	P	K	R	T	O	Fightingfish
N	P	P	B	H	G	T	E	T	J	H	C	M	H	W	S	I	S	Z	I	S	N	Gators
E	X	I	B	I	H	E	S	Z	H	G	O	L	L	K	J	U	H	G	Z	X	I	Huskies
E	O	N	E	X	C	A	A	M	H	G	V	R	E	W	H	G	E	S	B	M	M	Lions
R	F	S	P	A	R	T	A	N	S	V	I	R	N	N	K	R	O	X	D	I	E	Longhorns
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																						Wolverines

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Your Best Choice*

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## Humor Section



A man takes his seat at the big Michigan State University vs University of Michigan football game.

He looks to his left and notices that there is a spare seat between himself and the next guy.

The man: *"Who would ever miss the big game between the Wolverines and the Spartans?"*

The guy: *"That was my wife's seat. We came to all the games together, but sadly she passed away."*

The man: *"That's terrible, but couldn't you get another member of the family, friend, or someone else to come with you?"*

The guy: *"No...they're all at the funeral!"*

# Don't Be a Carbon Monoxide Statistic

Carbon monoxide (CO) has the reputation of being the “silent killer.” Most people are aware that breathing high levels of CO can be fatal, but few are aware that even at low levels, carbon monoxide can make you sick. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

“Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to CO poisoning. Fatality is highest among Americans 65 and older.”<sup>1</sup>

Typically, the only carbon monoxide related incidents that are reported in news reports are when people die. This can lead to a false impression of the dangers related to carbon monoxide:

“Albert Donnay, a consulting toxicologist based in Hyattsville, Md., said he believes that more than 200,000 emergency-room visits per year should be attributed to CO poisoning, and the death rate is closer to 2,000 per year. He said he thinks the numbers are higher than reported because CO-related illnesses often go undiagnosed and are treated incorrectly. “Families may develop chronic flulike symptoms, headaches, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome and weakness from low levels of CO,” said Donnay.

“Doctors don't know to ask about CO in their homes.”<sup>2</sup>

This is one of the reasons that technicians at Vincent's Heating & Plumbing receive advanced training from the National Com-

fort Institute (NCI) in Sheffield Lake, Ohio. Since 2006, every technician at Vincent's has become an NCI certified Carbon Monoxide & Combustion Analyst, and is recertified every two years. This speaks to the importance that Vincent's places on the safety and well-being of its customers, because so many problems related to carbon monoxide are unrecognized.

“Tens of thousands don't realize that CO is the cause of their medical problems,” said Jim Davis, a senior trainer with the National Comfort Institute. The National Comfort Institute trains HVAC contractors, fire departments, engineers and home inspectors in the proper testing of appliances that use CO-producing fuels. “The damage is cumulative over time and affects your memory, heart and lungs.”

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that those with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen (asthma, heart disease, etc.), infants, and pregnant women are at the highest risk of death from CO poisoning. Among the healthy adult population, more men than women succumb to CO poisoning.

Davis of the National Comfort Institute said that you must use the proper testing equipment when searching for CO leaks. “You should be using a combustion analyzer,” Davis said.

Davis explained the difference between an analyzer and a monitor. “A monitor just tests the CO

levels in a house,” he said. “An analyzer determines if there is proper combustion efficiency, ventilation and fuel-air mixture. You want to know if your furnace is mechanically sound.”

According to Davis, a combustion analyzer should always be used during installation and maintenance of appliances. “Sadly, only 2% of contractors are trained and certified in the use of combustion analyzers,” he said. “Not one state requires certification in combustion and carbon monoxide.”<sup>3</sup>

As a client of Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, you are fortunate to have an NCI trained contractor to look after your heating equipment and help you avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. The best way to avoid becoming a carbon monoxide statistic is to follow this sound advice from the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

“Recommended Strategies to prevent CO poisoning from your home appliances include having your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year and installing a battery-operated CO detector in your home.”<sup>4</sup>

It's a very simple 3-step formula:

1) Have your heating appliances serviced by a qualified technician

2) Do it every year

3) Put a CO alarm in your home.

Vincent's Heating & Plumbing can help you with all three steps. On the reverse side we focus on the last step.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR A SPECIAL OFFER

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Fact Sheet*, April 27, 2009, CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>2</sup> Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/where-we-live/wp/2018/02/12/why-a-carbon-monoxide-monitor-in-your-home-may-not-be-enough-to-protect-you/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.6bf5f971ce74](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/where-we-live/wp/2018/02/12/why-a-carbon-monoxide-monitor-in-your-home-may-not-be-enough-to-protect-you/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6bf5f971ce74)

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>4</sup> Source: *Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Fact Sheet*, April 27, 2009, CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# THE BEST CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM PROTECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY IS NOT AVAILABLE AT A HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER OR HARDWARE STORE

The typical store-bought alarm (*Kidde, First Alert, etc.*) from a hardware store will only sound the alarm after 70 ppm (parts-per-million) has been sensed for a period of 4 hours (*See actual packaging in store.*) You are safer sleeping in a public parking garage, which has a 25 ppm maximum allowable limit! Consider this compiled chart of carbon monoxide dangers below 70 ppm (*source - NCI*):

CO LEVEL	CARBON MONOXIDE RISK OBSERVED OR ALLOWABLE LIMIT
3-7 ppm	6% increase in the rate of admission in hospitals of non-elderly for asthma. (Sheppard-1999)
5-6 ppm	Significant risk of low birth rate if exposed during last trimester (Ritz & Yu - 1999)
10 ppm	Outdoor level of CO found associated with a significant increase in heart disease deaths and hospital admissions for congestive heart failure.
15 - 20 ppm	First level World Health Organization (WHO) lists as causing impaired performance, decrease in exercise time and vigilance.
25 ppm	<b>Maximum allowable in a parking garage (International Mechanical Code)</b>
27 ppm	21% increase in cardio respiratory complaints. (Kurt-1978)
35 ppm	US NIOSH recommended 8-hour maximum workplace exposure. EPA standard for outdoors for 1-hour and a maximum of 1-time per year.
50 ppm	US OSHA recommended 8-hour maximum workplace exposure.
70 ppm	First alarm level for a <u>store bought</u> - UL 2034 approved - CO alarm.

## The solution? The NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor which detects Carbon Monoxide levels as low as 5 ppm!

The NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor features include:

- Continuous Scan™ mode lets you know monitor is checking for CO – 24/7
- Digital display shows CO levels of 5 p p m or higher
- Low Alarm - 1 5 p p m - audible & visual every 8 seconds
- High Alarm - 3 5 p p m - audible & visual every 4 seconds
- Crisis Alarm - 7 0 + p p m - audible & visual every 2 seconds

**Save \$20 off a NSI 3000 Low-Level CO Monitor Reg. Price ~~\$199~~**

**Now \$179**

VHP Club Members Save an Extra 10% - VHP Club Price after savings \$161.  
Offer Expires Jan. 15. Free delivery with any service or maintenance visit.

**CALL (810) 985-7103** to set up a service call or maintenance visit for free delivery OR stop by the office to purchase.

Vincent's Htg. & Plbg. 2650 Oak St, Port Huron

### NOTICE:

**The availability of NSI 3000 Monitors is limited due to supply chain shortages.**

For the foreseeable future, our inventory of NSI 3000 Monitors is limited to our supply on hand. This is due to both the chip shortage and shipping congestion. Therefore, these monitors are available first-come, first-served. When our supply is gone, we have been told not to expect more until the crisis is resolved.

**ACT SOON TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU HAVE THE BEST PROTECTION FROM CO YOUR FAMILY DESERVES!**

# A NEGLECTED WATER HEATER OR FURNACE CAN PUT YOUR FAMILY AT RISK FROM CO POISONING!

- On the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services website, faulty furnaces and water heaters are lumped together as the leading cause of carbon monoxide poisoning in Michigan.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) echoes this concern and warns homeowners against neglecting these appliances. It recommends that **BOTH your furnace and water heater should be serviced by a qualified technician EVERY YEAR to prevent CO poisoning in your home.**

At Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, you can choose maintenance services to provide peace of mind from furnace and water heater risks. Our Plumbing & Water Heater Service (formerly 'Plumbing & Home Safety Service') will make certain you and your family are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, from your water heater exploding or rupturing due to a failed Temperature & Pressure Relief Valve, and more. This service is so comprehensive it takes 1-1/2 to perform everything.

Here is a list of the various water heater safety & maintenance tasks we'll take care of for you:

#### ALL WATER HEATERS:

- Per **WATTS T & P relief valve inspection guidelines:**
- Perform T & P valve annual safety check to prevent explosions.
- Verify T & P valve installed correctly and for safe discharge.
- Verify T & P valve is rated correctly for the tank.
- Remove T & P valve and visually inspect for corrosion and accumulation of sediment deposits to make sure it will work.

#### ATMOSPHERIC & POWER VENT GAS WATER HEATERS ONLY:

- Flush sediment from tank to reduce health risks & prolong tank life (*flushed until water is clear.*)
- Perform visual inspection of anode rod, dip tube and tank interior for signs of wear.
- Exhaust vent safety check to prevent CO leaking into house.
- Perform flame safety check to prevent gas explosions.
- Perform combustion testing with cleaning to ensure proper & safe performance.
- Perform safety inspection of all gas fittings to it for leaks.

#### TANKLESS GAS WATER HEATERS ONLY:

- Perform annual descaling flush.
- Perform safety inspection of all gas fittings to it for leaks.

#### ELECTRIC WATER HEATER ONLY:

- Flush sediment from tank to reduce health risks & prolong tank life (*flushed until water is clear*)
- Perform visual inspection of elements, anode rod, dip tube and tank interior for signs of wear.
- Remove access panels.
- Visually inspect all electrical connections.
- Visually inspect for signs of copper embrittlement.

#### PLUMBING INSPECTION

- Check all water line shut offs and emergency stops to verify they will function when needed.
- Identify location of main shutoff and make certain that it works.
- Examine drain lines & water lines for signs of leaking and concerns. (*1-1/2 hours is allotted for visit not including travel time*)

Includes **Annual Descaling Flush** for Tankless Water Heaters  
& **Visual Inspection of Tank Interior** For Tank-Type Water Heaters

**BONUS OFFER - NO PURCHASE NECESSARY: GET A FREE COPY OF MY SPECIAL REPORT:**

**"PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM WATER HEATER RISKS IN YOUR HOME"**

...and learn more about the above risks and gain an understanding about the inner workings of your water heater and the things that need to be done of to keep your water heater safe, to keep it delivering the hot water you expect, and to make it last a long time. **FOR YOUR FREE COPY** visit [www.VHPinc.com](http://www.VHPinc.com) and request a copy or give us a call at (810) 985-7103. - *Daniel Squires*

...continued on reverse side....

In addition to the extensive water heater safety and maintenance procedures, the plumbing technician will also inspect your home's plumbing system to make certain that all your plumbing fixtures, water lines and drain lines are in good order and that there are no problems developing.

- ***Were you aware that cast iron drains that were installed in homes built before the 70's are wearing out and starting to crack and leak as they reach the end of their useful life?***

This is the sort of potential problem that our plumbing technician can 'head off at the pass' so you can be aware of potential issues that are developing before they become major problems. Then there are the plumbing emergencies that come out of nowhere—would you be ready for one?

- ***Do you know where your main water shut-off is? - and - if you do know where it is - does it work?!?***

In addition to the plumbing inspection, we'll show you where the main water shut-off to your house is AND we'll test it to make certain that it will actually work when you need it. And for good measure we'll inspect ALL of your water line shut-offs and emergency stops to make certain that they will work.

- ***With a Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit you can KNOW:***

- √ ...that your water heater failsafe (the T&P Valve) that keeps it from becoming a bomb is working.
- √ ...that the gas to your water heater will shut off rather than dump gas in your home if it doesn't work.
- √ ...that your water heater isn't dumping poisonous exhaust gasses into your home.
- √ ...that there are no faulty electrical shorts or signs of burning on your water heater.
- √ ...that your water heater has gotten the required annual maintenance it needs.
- √ ...that your gas line to the water heater aren't leaking.
- √ ...that a plumbing professional has looked over your home's plumbing.
- √ ...that you will be ready for a plumbing emergency.

## **"Holiday Water Heater Safety Special"**

To make certain your water heater is operating safely, call (810) 985-7103 to schedule a **Plumbing & Water Heater Service** visit.

***Regular Price \$179 - Save \$20! - Only \$159***

### **Low Level CO Monitor Bonus Offer:**

Add an **NSI 3000 Low Level CO Monitor** for only \$159 (Reg. \$199) when you purchase a Plumbing & Water Heater Service visit. Save \$40!

***\$60 Combined Holiday Package Savings (\$20 + \$40)***

**BOTH OFFERS EXPIRE JANUARY 15.** Call Monday - Friday 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

## **Vincent's Heating & Plumbing Inc.**

2650 Oak St - Port Huron, MI 48060 (810) 985-7103 email: sales@VHPinc.com

***Wherever You See a Vincent Van Go You Know the Job Will Be a Work of Art!"***