

## Midwest Households Without Power

Midwest Households Without Power Can Keep Warm Using Vent-Free Gas Heaters, Fireplaces, Stoves and Log Sets, Which Do Not Require Electricity

December 6, 2006—With the bitter cold combined with a lack of electricity, many in the Midwest have struggled to stay warm these past few days. Vent-free gas appliances, however, provide heat even when power is lost because of severe weather or emergency situations.

"In an emergency situation or power outage, people can rely on vent-free gas appliances to provide a safe, reliable and easy to use heating source," said Sue Walker, chairman of the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance. "Not only do they provide peace of mind for times such as these, but also today's vent-free gas heating appliances offer a cost-effective option for consumers."

While these appliances are similar to other space heating and hearth products, vent-free products do not vent to the outside, which allows all of the useable heat to stay in the room. Vent-free heaters, fireplaces, stoves and log sets are 99 percent efficient and can be installed into any of the 62 million U.S. homes that use either natural or propane gas.

In non-emergency situations, vent-free heating products are a popular supplementary heating source. Zone heating, or heating the rooms used most instead of the entire house, can help homeowners save hundreds of dollars a year on energy costs. Whether it is in a bedroom\*, rec-room or family room, adding a vent-free heater helps give a new or remodeled room added ambiance and heat when needed.

Converting wood-burning fireplaces to vent-free gas log sets eliminates the hassle and mess of hauling in wood, disposing of ashes, lighting kindling, tending the fire, and guarding against stray embers. Design-certified vent-free gas heating products meet both the latest national standards and most rigorous air quality requirements and are available in various sizes that range from 2,000-40,000 BTU. Since a vent-free appliance can be added anywhere in a home that has access to gas, installation costs can range up to 60 percent less than the cost of installing vented appliances.

Every design-certified vent-free appliance sold in the United States is engineered for safety, featuring an oxygen detection safety sensor (ODS), equivalent in function and reliability to an electrical circuit breaker, which turns off the unit if the room's oxygen levels drop around the unit. In addition, research conducted by the American Gas Association Research Division has shown that design-certified vent-free heaters, fireplaces, stoves and log sets comply with today's most rigorous indoor air quality guidelines.

More than 17 million American households have installed vent-free fireplaces, heaters, fireplace inserts, stoves or log sets over the past 25 years, and the number of installations is growing each year.

Visit [www.ventfree.org](http://www.ventfree.org) for more information or, or send an email to [ventfree@gamanet.org](mailto:ventfree@gamanet.org).

\*Vent-free heaters in bedrooms are limited to 10,000 Btu per hr. input.