

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



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

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OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

Growing up rooting for the Detroit Lions, like so many Lion fans in the 90's I loved Barry Sanders as much as I disliked the Dallas Cowboys and their star running back, Emmitt Smith.

two running backs was better, but most people who know football put both Barry Sanders and Emmitt Smith in the top 3 NFL rushers of all time. Although, loyal fan



Here I am with football legend Emmitt Smith.

(Continued on page 3)

Did you know...

...a poorly performing duct system uses more energy and can damage your furnace? Correcting your duct system saves energy, extends equipment life, and provides more heating and cooling comfort!



How to Make Sure Your Furnace Is Safe

Part 1: Carbon Monoxide

It's easy to take a furnace or boiler for granted. After all, except for when it doesn't keep you warm it is usually 'out of sight and out of mind' and forgotten. So it's a good thing that furnace manufacturers have gone to great lengths to engineer very safe products. Still every year we will read news stories about furnace related tragedies, so it is important to understand the risks – regardless of the furnace age - in order to avoid them. And foremost of those risks is the danger posed by carbon monoxide.

Specifically regarding the

risks concerning carbon monoxide the **Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states:** "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. 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." (Emphasis added) Source: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Fact Sheet, April 27, 2009, CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This month we are going to explore why a furnace safety inspection is so important to protecting you from the risk of carbon monoxide.

CO Poisoning and Furnaces

Carbon monoxide is a natural byproduct of combustion. In normal

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How to Make Sure Your Furnace Is Safe Part 1: Carbon Monoxide

“Unfortunately there is no way to predict when a heat exchanger will break. This is a very important reason why a furnace should be regularly checked for safety.”

operation, the carbon monoxide is vented with the furnace exhaust through the furnace vent or chimney to the outside where it is so diluted it does no harm. You may be surprised, but all that separates this deadly gas from your breathing air is a metal 'sleeve' that is about 1/8 inch thick. The metal sleeve that I am referring to is called the 'heat exchanger'. The reason a furnace has a heat exchanger is to transfer heat from the furnace exhaust to your house air. Here is the risk: eventually a heat exchanger will break and allow CO to mix with the air you breath. Have you ever bent a paper clip back and forth until it broke? The reason it breaks is because of 'metal fatigue'. Every time a furnace heats up and cools off, it causes metal fatigue in the furnace heat exchanger. When it heats up the metal expands. When it cools off the metal contracts. Although the action is different from bending a

paperclip, the result is the same. And eventually the heat exchanger will break or crack and allow carbon monoxide to mix with the air you breath. And this is a very serious situation.

If your furnace heat exchanger breaks, either the heat exchanger or the entire furnace must be replaced to eliminate a very real and deadly threat. Unfortunately there is no way to predict when a heat exchanger will break. This is a very important reason why a furnace should be regularly checked for safety.

“What if my furnace is new?”

A common assumption is that a heat exchanger only breaks in an older furnace. This used to be true for furnaces made before the 1970's because furnaces used to have thicker heat exchangers. But due to higher fuel prices and government fuel efficiency standards the modern - thin - heat exchanger came into existence. The good news is

the furnace can heat the house up faster and waste less energy. The bad news is heat exchangers are more fragile and can break easier.

Other Factors Causing A Heat Exchanger To Break

1) Poor airflow - if the furnace ductwork is inadequate a furnace will overheat and speed up the processes causing the heat exchanger to fail.
2) Moisture - the modern, energy efficient furnace extracts so much heat from the exhaust that there is not enough heat to carry all the water vapor away. This moisture is acidic and will condense in the heat exchanger and weaken the heat exchanger.
Don't be lulled into a false sense of security by how toasty and comfortable your furnace is keeping you. It will do a good job taking care of you - but you need to take care of it, too! Have your furnace checked annually to reduce your risk.
Next month: How to Make Sure Your Furnace Is Safe - Part 2.

THROUGH MY EYES (CONT' D FROM PAGE1)

that I am, my vote always went for Barry vs. one of the hated Dallas cowboys. So you can imagine my surprise when I got to hear and meet Emmitt Smith that I was really impressed by him. What I liked most about him is how humble and genuine he is. For all of his records he didn't talk like a guy who let it go to his head. He had a genuine appreciation for his teammates and readily pointed to how it took an entire team effort for him to enjoy the success that he had. He shared how this was made painfully clear to him before he made it to the NFL. In his first full game starting for the University of Florida, Emmitt Smith described how he broke

Florida's all-time single game rushing record, carrying 39 times for 224 yards and two touchdowns as the Gators upset Alabama. As you might imagine the sports writers swarmed him after the game for quotes. He got caught up with all the attention and praise being showered on him and took all the credit for himself. Of course his teammates also read his comments. In the next scrimmage in practice the following week on the first handoff to Smith, his entire offensive line fell to the ground without blocking a single defensive player. Smith described the valuable lesson he learned as he had his 'bell rung' as the entire defensive line gang tackled

him and piled on top of him. It was a rough way to learn the lesson but obviously it took as gauged by his humility today. I am just as appreciative of the great team I have around me at Vincent's Heating & Plumbing. Although I love the many compliments I get about our service, I know that it is the team we have, from the office people that take your call to the techs that visit you to provide service. I'm just glad I was able to figure this out with out having over a thousand pounds of defensive players pile on top of me!

"...I am just as appreciative of the great team I have around me at Vincent's Heating & Plumbing."

A LETTER FROM A VINCENT'S CLIENT

Our technician was very knowledgeable, courteous and gave us a good recommendation to keep our AC working for many years to come. I have the the maintenance plan for our furnace and AC unit. Awesome program. Thanks Vincent Heating and Plumbing.

Sheree, Fort Gratiot

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Football Word Search

K C A B R E T R A U Q F F A B
 N M Y T S D W R X K M I H F Q
 J W A T J K E M H C R E H U B
 R R O O L F X Z Y A Y L Z Q Y
 F Z N D E A T G W B T D P Y A
 M H T R T I N M T H E G Y T T
 O W E A L S B E O C F O J M F
 P E V B Q J R S P U A A E O T
 E N O Z D N E I H O S L K E D
 K I V E M T Z C F T P U N T F

Blitz
 First Down
 Quarterback
 Touchback
 End Zone
 Penalty
 Referee
 Field Goal
 Punt
 Safety

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Humor Section



I spilled Spot Remover on my dog... Now he's gone.

Just think how much deeper the ocean would be if sponges didn't live there.

I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn't park anywhere near the place.

I went to a bookstore. I asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

Is there another word for synonym?

Quotable:

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Stephen Wright—Comedian