

"Captain, My Television is Broken!"

Cruise Ship Captains Rely on Trained Crews, But What's a Homeowner to do When a System Fails?

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES, May 13, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Why is a cruise ship captain like a homeowner? While it's true that houses generally don't float or cruise the Caribbean, both share the need to keep critical and very similar systems operating and ship-shape. Few things compare with the pride and sense of accomplishment that come with home ownership. For many first-time buyers especially, receiving the keys to their new "castles" represents the realization of their dreams.

Very quickly, though, the myriad details of owning, operating and maintaining a dwelling, regardless of style or size, can become overwhelming. The reality is that a single family residence – like an ocean-going vessel -- is an extremely complicated, self-contained machine, with dozens of systems and hundreds of moving parts.

In many ways, the homeowner's role is comparable to that of a cruise ship captain. The typical cruise ship has many of the same systems found in a residence: plumbing, electrical, safety and security, communications, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), structural integrity and more. In addition, there is a human component, often thousands of passengers, who expect the ship to provide an enjoyable and comfortable environment in which to unwind. But unlike the captain, the homeowner doesn't have immediate access to a full-time crew of highly-trained maintenance experts.

"I like to use the ship captain metaphor for home ownership because no one – not even the captain – can be an expert in all of the systems needed to run the ship," says Michael Stein, CEO of IDT Energy, a provider of retail electricity and natural gas for homes and small businesses, in addition to a variety of home services and maintenance and protection plans. "Typically, homeowners don't worry about appliances, electronics, plumbing, HVAC and other vital systems until something breaks and they are threatened with unhappy 'passengers' – their family members."

Increasingly, in addition to electricity and natural gas, companies like IDT Energy offer consumers peace-of mind and economies of scale by providing one-stop shopping, and quality assurance for the kinds of home services most in demand. Available services even extend to security, fire and smoke detection, identity protection, and credit monitoring.

The vast majority of homeowners have been faced with an emergency situation such as a backed-up toilet on a weekend or a malfunctioning air conditioning system on the hottest day of the summer. In the event a service professional is not already on speed-dial, a home services plan may help eliminate the frantic online search for a plumber or HVAC service company. Instead of gambling on the questionable skills of a stranger, home services plan providers carefully select reputable and experienced contractors in the markets they serve. And, if the homeowner is dissatisfied with the repair, the company often steps in to ensure the job is done right.

"Unlike a cruise ship, we don't offer endless buffets, parasailing, dancing lessons or swims with dolphins. But we do give our customers a choice of energy supply options – and the ability to choose from a broad menu of services to protect critical systems, personal belongings and finances," says Stein. "There's no substitute for the peace-of-mind a homeowner can enjoy by knowing he or she is prepared for things that may go wrong in a home."

Information about IDT Energy® Home Services can be found at www.IDTEnergyHomeServices.com.

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