B. Tucker Heating & Air Urges Atlanta Homeowners to Run the Heat Before They Need It

ALTLANTA, GA, UNITED STATES, September 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- B. Tucker Heating & Air is encouraging metro Atlanta homeowners to run their heating systems for fifteen minutes on a mild day over the next few weeks, before the first cold snap makes the test an emergency instead of an errand.

The company, which has served metro Atlanta for more than 40 years, says the reasoning is less obvious than the request. A gas furnace here sits unused for roughly seven months. Dust settles on the heat exchanger and burners, components that were fine in March may not start in October, and venting can be blocked by debris or a bird's nest built over the summer. None of that announces itself while the system is idle.

Why the first run of the season matters

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges consumers to schedule a yearly professional inspection of all fuel-burning home heating systems, including furnaces, boilers, water heaters, chimneys, flues, and vents. The reason is carbon monoxide. CPSC reports that more than 200 people die each year from unintentional, non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning associated with consumer products, with heating equipment among the top contributors.

Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describes the common symptoms as headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion, a pattern often mistaken for flu. People who are asleep can die before experiencing any symptoms at all.

One detail from CPSC guidance catches even homeowners who think they have this covered: chimneys and flues are not normally checked by heating contractors, so consumers should specifically ask for venting to be included. Blockages from dislodged mortar, bird nests, and debris prevent flue gases escaping, and flue connectors should be checked for tight fittings and for rust or cracks that would let combustion gases into the house.

The Atlanta wrinkle

Metro Atlanta's heating season is short and intermittent, which is what makes a fault easy to

miss.

Many homes here run dual-fuel systems, pairing a heat pump with a gas furnace. The heat pump handles most of an Atlanta winter on its own, and the furnace only engages below a set balance point. A homeowner can go weeks into the season with the heat apparently working perfectly and the gas side never having fired. The first time it does is often during a genuine cold snap, at night, in January, when every HVAC company in the metro is booked.

Equipment location compounds it. Atlanta systems frequently sit in crawl spaces and attics rather than living space, so the noises, smells, and soot that would otherwise prompt a call go unnoticed.

What a test run will tell you

Homeowners should switch the system to heat, set the thermostat several degrees above room temperature, and watch what happens. A faint burning smell for the first few minutes is normal dust burn-off. A smell that persists is not. Neither is failure to ignite, a system that starts and stops repeatedly, soot or scorching around the unit, unfamiliar noise, or a breaker that trips.

On detectors, CPSC recommends carbon monoxide alarms meeting the UL 2034 standard, installed outside separate sleeping areas, with the test button pressed monthly and batteries replaced annually at a time change. CDC guidance is to replace the detector itself on the manufacturer's schedule or about every five years. If an alarm sounds or occupants develop symptoms, the guidance is to get outside to fresh air immediately and then call 911.

B. Tucker Heating & Air provides heating inspections, repair, and installation across metro Atlanta, and offers maintenance plans that include priority service scheduling.

About B. Tucker Heating & Air

B. Tucker Heating & Air has provided residential and light commercial heating, cooling, and ventilation services across metro Atlanta for more than 40 years. Services include gas furnace installation, heat pump, furnace, and dual-fuel system repair, air conditioning installation and repair, maintenance plans, zone control systems, whole-home dehumidifiers, and air filtration and ultraviolet purification. The company also designs and installs systems for area homebuilders. All quotes are fixed price with no hidden fees, and workmanship on systems B. Tucker designs and installs is guaranteed for two years in addition to any manufacturer warranty. B. Tucker Heating & Air is located at 4025 Pleasantdale Rd, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30340.

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