

To: Benita Mathew, [bmathew@gannett.com](mailto:bmathew@gannett.com)  
Subject: For B. Matthew: Urgent Furnace Safety Presentation

Ms. Mathew:

As the nights grow colder, a threat to the residents of Green Bay lurks, unnoticed, in nearly every household. Furnaces that have sat, unused and ill-maintained, since last winter will be lit for the first time of the season any day now. Lighting a furnace that has not been properly prepared for use can turn deadly in an instant.

*Green Bay Press Gazette* has an opportunity to save lives by covering the underreported dangers of home furnaces. Fire and ambulance calls increase dramatically this time of year. The Green Bay Metro Fire Department is working to prevent these tragedies, especially for our elderly residents. Your work covering health and science news in Green Bay, particularly your series on the Emerald Bay Retirement Community has been a tremendous asset to the community and readers would trust your coverage regarding furnace safety.

The GBMFD is also hosting a presentation featuring nationally recognized furnace expert, Gabriel Martinez. Martinez boasts 25 years of experience as a firefighter and paramedic. The event will be held at Best Western Green Bay Inn Conference Center at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 7.

Coverage of this topic will lead to more residents being aware of the risks, attending our presentation, and registering for one of the free furnace inspections we are offering. You would, quite literally, be saving homes and saving lives.

Please let me know of any way I can be of assistance. My phone number is (920) 448-3280.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mackenzie Motsinger

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