

Media Advisory

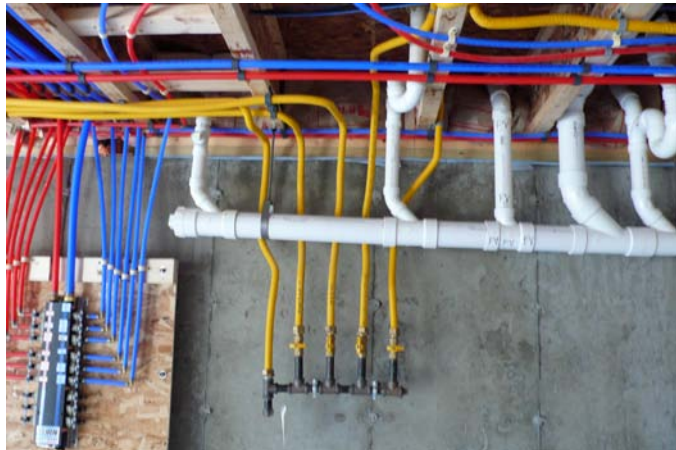
OFFICE OF THE UTAH STATE FIRE MARSHAL

YELLOW FLEXIBLE CORRUGATED STAINLESS STEEL GAS PIPE AT RISK TO DAMAGE FROM LIGHTNING

Yellow Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)

The Office of the Utah State Fire Marshal in cooperation with the National Association of Fire Marshals urges all property owners with buildings and homes constructed after 1989 with yellow CSST installed, to have the tubing checked for proper bonding and grounding. All are encouraged to have these systems checked by a qualified and licensed electrician.

Yellow CSST is a flexible metal gas tubing used in many homes and buildings since 1989. It is used to supply natural gas or propane to furnaces, water heaters and/or other gas appliances. (See attached photos). We urge caution that you do not confuse yellow CSST with the flexible appliance connectors used in many homes.



Direct or indirect lightning strikes involving a structure have been shown to cause an electrical current to travel into the structure and upon reaching yellow CSST tubing, have in some cases caused a perforation in the sidewall of the tubing as it arcs to another metallic system seeking ground. This arcing can ignite the pressurized gas leaking from the perforation and in some cases has caused a significant fire.

Equipotential bonding of metallic systems in a structure reduces the likelihood of electrical arcing between those systems. Therefore, since 2009, new or modified installations of CSST have been required to meet the specifications for bonding and grounding as stated in the 2009 NFPA-54 National Fuel Gas Code (sec. 7.13.2) and the manufacturer's installation requirements.



Homeowners and property owners who have yellow CSST installed in their homes are encouraged to determine if the system is properly bonded. Licensed electrical contractors should be contacted to make the correct determination on proper bonding of the system. Costs associated with performing this

inspection and potential repair vary between service companies. It is suggested to compare prices for this service before selecting a company to perform a safety check of your system.

For additional information, see:

www.CSSTSafety.com

The following manufacturer's links may be referenced in order to determine the manufacturer's installation requirements:

- www.wardmfg.com
- www.gastite.com
- www.tracpipe.com
- www.tru-flex.com
- www.metalfab.com

Although previous installations of yellow Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing prior to 2009 were installed to code requirements at the time of their installation, it is recommended these systems be checked for proper grounding to meet the current building codes and manufacturer's requirements and ultimately to enhance your safety.