

November 11, 2009

**IMPORTANT LIGHTNING SAFETY WARNINGS**  
**BY CORRUGATED STAINLESS STEEL TUBING MANUFACTURERS**

Flexible gas piping known as Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) has been recognized as an acceptable piping material for vapor service propane systems in the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54) since 1988 and in the International Fuel Gas Code. CSST is manufactured to meet ANSI LC1 CSA6.26, Fuel Gas Piping Systems Using Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing.

There have been reports of fires caused by lightning strikes at or near homes equipped with CSST. These reports resulted in a class action law suit being instituted against four CSST manufacturers: Omega Flex, Inc. (Tracpipe or CounterStrike); Parker-Hannifin Corp. (Parflex); Titeflex Corp. (Gastite); and Ward Manufacturing, Inc. (Wardflex). As part of the settlement of this law suit, these manufacturers have posted on the Internet certain warnings and information concerning CSST. Like other companies that install CSST in residential and commercial propane systems, Suburban Propane has been asked to communicate CSST manufacturers' concerns.

Areas with high lightning risk have been identified to include, but are not limited to, the states of: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia, based on a flash density map provided by the National Weather Service, which can be found at [http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/lightning\\_map.htm](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/lightning_map.htm).

Owners of structures that are equipped with CSST are directed to consult with a licensed electrician to ensure that the system has been properly bonded to the grounding electrode system of the premises, and that the system is adequately protected against a lightning strike. If your gas system installation needs to be updated, and/or additional protection against lightning strikes needs to be added to your structure, in order to meet CSST manufacturers' current safety standards, contact a licensed electrician and/or a lightning protection system installation company to perform the services. Contact information for CSST manufacturers may be found on their respective websites. Links to the warnings posted by manufacturers of CSST that have been used by Suburban Propane in installations are provided below solely as a convenience to the reader; Suburban Propane assumes no responsibility for the content to be found at such links.

Gastite manufactured by Titeflex:

[http://www.gastite.com/include/languages/english/downloads/pdfs/Gastite\\_LightningSafety\\_HomeOwner.pdf](http://www.gastite.com/include/languages/english/downloads/pdfs/Gastite_LightningSafety_HomeOwner.pdf)

Proflex manufactured by Tru-Flex:

See pages 28-29

[http://www.tru-flex.com/HVAC/docs/17482\\_TF\\_TrainingG15.pdf](http://www.tru-flex.com/HVAC/docs/17482_TF_TrainingG15.pdf)

Trackpipe / Counterstrike by Omegaflex

[http://www.omegaflex.com/trac/modules/news/upload/{B302E81E-0D85-4A90-B021-BB2DBBA6CDB5}\\_Counterstrike\\_Bro\\_FGP-124.pdf](http://www.omegaflex.com/trac/modules/news/upload/{B302E81E-0D85-4A90-B021-BB2DBBA6CDB5}_Counterstrike_Bro_FGP-124.pdf)