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If you are installing corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST), you should know that it needs to be grounded – but **not** to the natural gas meter – to guard against a potential leak or fire if the Xcel Energy gas distribution piping is struck by lightning.

an important safety message

FOR CONTRACTORS FROM XCEL ENERGY

WHAT IS CSST?

Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is a flexible stainless steel pipe used to distribute natural gas in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. CSST often has a yellow or black plastic coating. Its light weight, flexibility and need for fewer connections and fittings can make CSST easier to install than traditional threaded black-iron piping. Yet, CSST must be properly grounded to avoid potential dangers associated with a lightning strike.



WHAT CAN I DO TO ENSURE THE SAFE INSTALLATION OF CSST?

Due to concerns over lightning strikes resulting in leaks and in some cases fire, installation instructions now include the requirement to directly bond the CSST system to the electrical system grounding system. To protect both people and structures, the following steps are required:

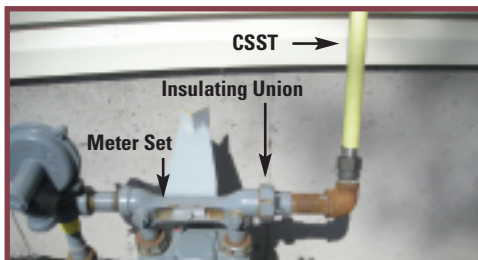
- Grounding of the electrical system to the earth.
- Bonding of all grounding electrodes together, including those associated with a lightning protection system if installed.
- Bonding of all metallic structures to the grounding system.

WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO?

Xcel Energy does not allow grounding of any customer-owned system to any portion of the natural gas system, up to and including the outlet of the gas meter. CSST used as customer gas piping must not be grounded across the insulating union to anywhere on the gas meter set. It must be grounded to either the structure's electrical ground or a separate ground rod near the gas service entrance to the structure.

(Per the NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code 2006, Section 7.13.2)

If Xcel Energy discovers a CSST-to-meter ground, it will be disconnected and the customer will be asked to contact their contractor.



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Make sure to check the CSST manufacturer's installation literature for grounding information.
- Go to www.toolbase.org/pdf/techinv/csst_lightningconcerns.pdf to read a report by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center about CSST for fuel gas distribution and safety risks from lightning.
- Call the NAHB at **800-638-8556**.



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