

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Underground Gas Lines

THE POPULARITY OF OUTDOOR fire pits, swimming pools hot tubs and gas barbecues is resulting in a substantial increase in the installation of underground gas lines. This was the subject of discussion in our RMGA

Board meeting this week.

Board member Mike Jaynes, representing Questar, mentioned they are encountering a number of leaks in



these underground lines, in part due to improper installation practices. Jason Tanner from Triple T, now in St. George, called in to discuss the issue of landscape contractors installing gas lines as part of their landscape work. Likewise, I've encounter situations where pool and landscape contractors have installed underground gas lines.

Utah State Statute, R156-55a-308b.

Natural Gas Technician Certification requires certification and/or completion of specific training programs for all

involved in the installation, modification, maintenance, cleaning, repair or replacement of gas piping. There law

further clarifies that the installer must be a state licensed journeyman plumber or hold an RMGA certification.

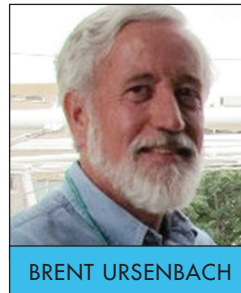
Additionally, the law limits the installation of gas lines to those

holding a HVAC, Plumbing or General Contractor's license, with the general contractor limited to work on dwellings with up to 4 units.

Gas lines installed by those lacking the training, certification and experience typically are not code compliant.

Common code violations encountered include:

- Improper pipe sizing
- No test for leaks
- Less than 12" burial depth
- Lack yellow tracer wire



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- Failure to install in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instruction, specifically cutting, prepping and completing mechanical joints.
- Improper installation of gas pressure regulators
- Undersized gas connectors to boilers
- Missing or improperly located shut-off valves
- Failure to address protection from corrosion

This may be a good topic for review in your next staff meeting.

Additionally, please seize the opportunities to educate others on the hazards associated with fuel gas piping systems, and the critical need to install correctly, by those qualified and certified to install these systems. ■

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments. Thanks—Brent

Lady Gaga & FLSA: A Bad Romance



The former personal assistant to Lady Gaga recently sued the pop star for unpaid overtime, saying she was "on duty during all hours of each 24-hour day with no entitlement to breaks. . . or, at times, even sleep." The assistant says she was even responsible for "ensuring the promptness of a towel following a shower."

The lesson: Paying someone a salary doesn't automatically make them exempt from overtime laws. Find **Exempt vs. Nonexempt Checklist** at www.theHRSpecialist.com/checklist.

