



Patrick L. Casey  
President

**M.U.D. now  
requires all CSST  
gas piping to be  
grounded and  
bonded.**

**Unprotected CSST  
gas piping can be  
damaged when a  
home is hit by  
lightning.**



Certified Inspectors  
We Speak House

## **Corrugated Stainless Steel Piping (CSST)**

The yellow-colored flexible gas piping seen in most newer homes in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area is called CSST. A nationwide class-action lawsuit has been filed against the manufacturers of this piping because of holes being pierced in the pipes due to lightning strikes. Instances have occurred in homes, including homes in Omaha, where holes have been burned in CSST piping when lightning strikes have occurred near the home.

This hazard has only been brought to the public's attention within the last year. The Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) issued a document last fall (see attached) explaining the potential hazard of CSST piping. They recommend owners who have this type of gas piping in their home or building contact a licensed electrician to install grounding/bonding to the piping which will provide increased protection.

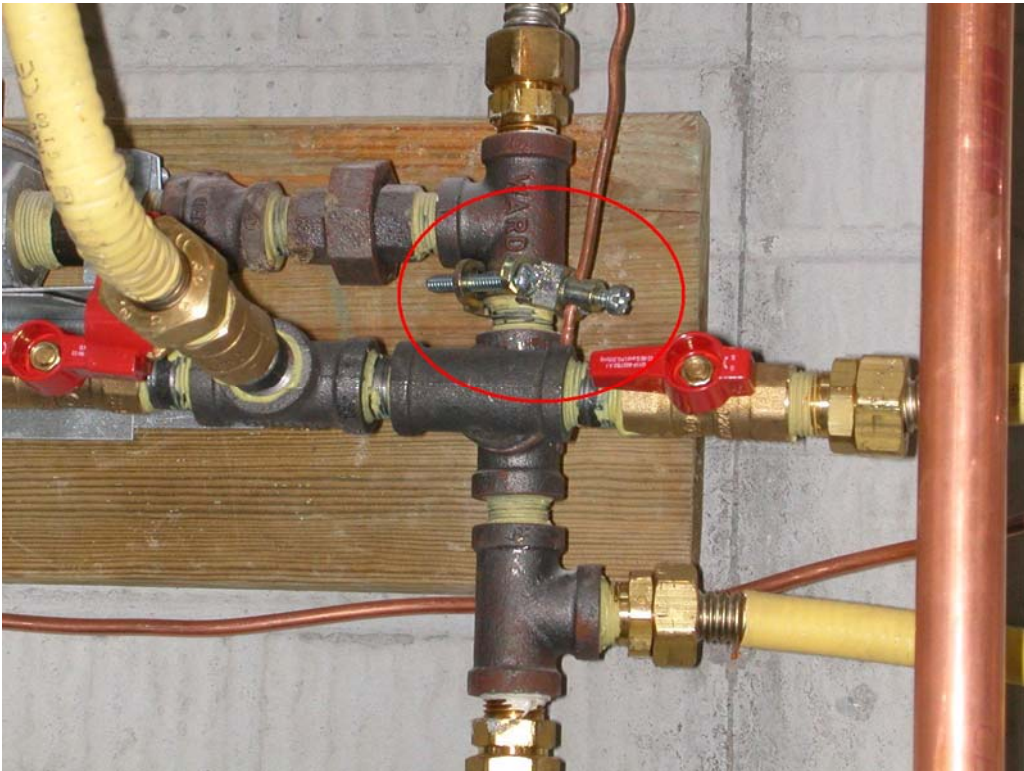
*M.U.D. recommends to all of its existing customers that the bonding and grounding be done as a safety upgrade, and they now require it on all new homes.*

We at **Home Buyers Protection Company** consider ungrounded/unbonded CSST gas piping a potential safety concern, and our inspection reports are now including a recommendation for repairs. Please call us if you have questions regarding this or any other home inspection topic.

Patrick Casey,  
President



**Ungrounded CSST Gas Piping**



**Grounded CSST Gas Piping**



**Typical Lightning Damage to CSST**

June 2007

Dear Valued Customer:

A class action lawsuit was filed in 2006 against four manufacturers of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) gas piping. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit claimed that CSST posed a risk of fire due to lightning strikes.

A lightning strike can cause an energized charge to arc from one system to another system in a structure, if the systems are not properly bonded. Arcing can damage CSST piping.

As a result of the lawsuit, CSST manufacturers issued new installation instructions that require bonding and grounding of CSST. The manufacturers claim the bonding and grounding of CSST may provide increased protection of the gas piping in a building.

Our records show that we performed work at your property within the past three years. Part of the work MAY have included the installation of CSST gas piping. At that time, the District installed the gas piping according to codes which did not specify additional bonding and grounding.

CSST piping is easy to identify because of the distinctive yellow coating around the stainless steel pipe.

If you own property in which CSST gas piping was installed prior to September 5, 2006, and the piping was manufactured by one of the defendants in the lawsuit, you are entitled to submit a claim for a voucher.

**Claims must be submitted and post-marked by September 5, 2007.**

You may download or file your claim on-line at [www.csstsettlement.com](http://www.csstsettlement.com). The website also lists a number of frequently asked questions.

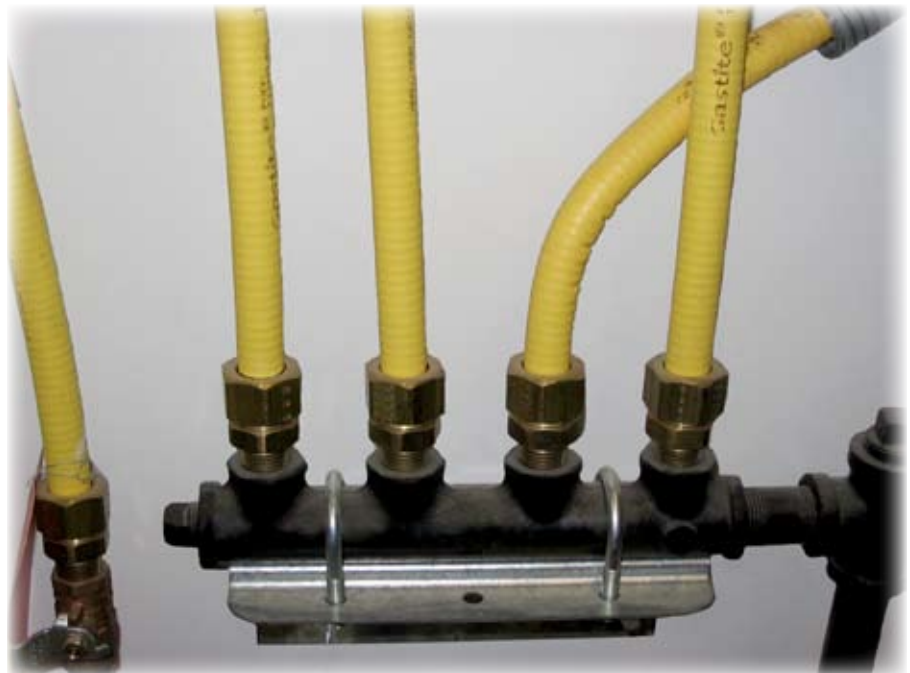
For costs associated with bonding and grounding, you will need to contact a licensed electrician. If you have additional questions, please call the CSST Settlement Administrator, 800.420.2916.

Sincerely,

Customer Service  
554.6666



**CSST piping with corrugation exposed.**



**CSST piping shown in a manifold.**