

FUELS SAFETY PROGRAM

March 13, 2002  
PR 1/02

## ***ADVISORY***

### ***TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND SAFETY ACT, 2000*** **Natural Gas & Propane Installation Code**

#### **Copper Tubing Corrosion**

The Fuels Safety program of Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is the administrative authority for the Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code, CSA B149.1-00.

An explosion involving propane occurred in November 2001 resulting in the death of four Ontario citizens. The investigation into the incident revealed that it was the result of a corrosion failure of copper tubing for the propane. A contributing factor to the corrosion of the copper tubing was its installation with one section in continuous contact with water with the rest being exposed to air. The corrosion failure of the copper tubing resulted in the release of propane that, eventually, caused the explosion and fatalities.

TSSA urges all contractors, Gas Technicians and fuel suppliers to exercise extreme diligence when confronted with concealed copper tubing, or aboveground copper tubing that may be exposed to different environments along its exposed portion.

A pressure test is recommended when the integrity of copper tubing may be suspect or cannot be definitely verified through visual inspection or other methods of leak testing.

cc: Gaseous Fuels Advisory Council  
Ontario Natural Gas Association  
Ontario Propane Association  
Propane Gas Association of Canada  
Risk Reduction Group - Propane  
Risk Reduction Group — Natural Gas

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