



# Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Lake Tahoe  
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[www.MeeksBayFire.com](http://www.MeeksBayFire.com)

John Pang, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
Edward I. Miller  
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Bruce C. Massie  
Stephen W. Hyde

August 29, 2011

Dear Homeowner:

Is your gas system safe?

The 2010/11 winter snow total has been one of the top seven snow accumulations in recorded history. One of the negative impacts of this has been the increased number of propane and natural gas emergencies that occurred in the Tahoe area this past winter, the worst being a house that rapidly disassembled (exploded!). The problems were caused from the weight of the snow pushing on, or against, gas piping, meters, or tanks; or from decks or meter sheds collapsing due to snow weight or roof slides. Another problem was snow plows that piled snow against the systems. These issues, and associated gas hazard risks, can be minimized by having your gas meter or propane tank meet current installation codes. Also, highly recommended would be to ensure that your decks and meter sheds are engineered and structurally sound to withstand local snow loads and roof slides. Another recommendation would be to keep your decks, meter shed, gas meter, propane tank(s), and all components free of snow through the winter.

We also became aware, via responding to gas emergencies, that at least a few gas systems do not meet current code. (Our Gas Ordinance 94-1 can be viewed at [www.meeksbayfire.com](http://www.meeksbayfire.com), or you may request a copy by calling 530-525-7548.) Because of this, we decided a proactive (rather than reactive), prevention-oriented approach will provide a win-win situation for all parties involved (homeowner, fire personnel, gas suppliers). This will be accomplished through gas system installation inspections, performed by our engine companies (firefighters). If you receive an inspection form in the mail, it will bring to your attention any possible deficiencies with your gas system installation. We would encourage you to call us so we may discuss possible violations and how to reduce the gas hazard risks associated with the installation. If, during these inspections, we detect a system which exhibits an immediate threat to life and safety, your system may be shut down and red-tagged until the deficiencies are corrected.

If you do not receive an inspection form, your system probably meets current local codes. At this point we would then encourage you to perform an annual inspection of your gas system, and check the structural integrity of any overhead decks, and meter sheds, and of course, remember to keep them free from snow!

Thank you in advance for helping to keep your property (and your life) safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John B. Pang".

John B. Pang  
Fire Chief