


We would appreciate your immediate and serious attention to this potentially widespread problem. The American Gas Association's cooperation and assistance in addressing the possible hazards created by the continued use of this type of connector will be gratefully appreciated as will your suggestions for any subsequent Commission actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard A. Gross".

Richard A. Gross
Executive Director

Enclosures (3)

Attention **Safety Notice**

IF YOU SMELL GAS

Natural gas is odorless in its original state, BUT - we add a disagreeable smell to make it easily detectable in the rare case any should escape.

Gas leaks can occur from various sources - loose connections, defective appliances, gas services lines either within or outside your home, or from leaking gas mains. Gas can be dangerous and should be dealt with promptly by experts.

IF YOU EVER SMELL GAS - CALL ----- Gas Company immediately at ----- . If the odor of gas is strong and persistent - and you are indoors, extinguish any candles, cigarettes, or other open flames, ventilate immediately by opening nearby outside doors or windows. Go outside. Call us from a neighbor's house.

IMPORTANT - do not turn electric switches ON or OFF, do not smoke or strike matches, do not create any source of combustion.

Recently the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, through the American Gas Association brought to our attention the fact that some types of corrugated metal hose (usually made of brass) used to connect appliances to household gas lines may have deteriorated with time and become defective. Some made with brazed or welded end fittings have been reported to be responsible for gas leaks and fires. Some connectors of this type may have been used in this area.

If you had a gas appliance installed in your home between July 1955 and July 1966, it may be installed with the type connector which, under certain conditions, could be unsafe.

If you believe you had a gas appliance with a corrugated metal hose installed at about that time, please complete and return the enclosed post-paid postcard indicating when and by what plumber or dealer it was connected. We will make an appointment to have a service representative call to examine your installation. If a suspect connector is located, we will suggest how you may wish to have it replaced.

WARNING

Do not attempt to examine or move any gas appliance yourself. You could cause an otherwise safe connection to fail creating an immediate emergency.

REPEAT - do NOT attempt to move your gas appliance to inspect the gas connection.

Attention **Safety Notice**

If you ever smell gas in your home,

- 1) Extinguish any candles, cigarettes, or other open flames;
- 2) Immediately open windows and outside doors for ventilation;
- 3) Don't touch electrical switches or turn on appliances;
- 4) Call your gas company immediately for emergency service from a neighbor's phone.

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1215 William Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

George H. Lawrence
A.G.A.

December 21, 1979

HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Richard A. Gross
Executive Director
U.S. Consumer Product Safety
Commission
Washington, DC 20207

Dear Mr. Gross:

This is in reply to your letter concerning corrugated metal connectors, which A.G.A. received December 17, 1979. This letter asked us to communicate with our members concerning certain potential safety problems involving selected corrugated metal connectors, manufactured prior to 1968. A.G.A. has mailed the enclosed Safety Bulletin to all A.G.A. member companies as well as all members of the A.G.A. Customer Service Committee. I have also designated Roy Siskin, Director, Operating & Engineering Services, to coordinate any suggestions for subsequent Commission action. The A.G.A. Laboratories in Cleveland and Los Angeles will also assist in answering any questions connected with this matter.

In addition, A.G.A. intends to place a safety notice concerning this potential problem in the front section of the A.G.A. Directory of Certified Appliances and Accessories. That notice is now being printed and will appear in the January 1, 1980, Directory. If any additional information is received concerning potential safety problems with corrugated metal connectors, it can be included in the supplements which are issued monthly.

The A.G.A. Directory is sent to gas utilities, appliance manufacturers, government agencies, regulatory officials, municipal enforcement authorities and other interested individuals. The Directory notice should reach the more than 4,000 recipients of the Directory in early 1980.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,


George H. Lawrence

Enclosure



PLAY IT SAFE.

Some basic precautions for using natural gas safely

Inspect your chimney and flue pipe to make sure they are in good condition and provide a good draft. A clogged chimney is a hazard.

Never allow an addition to be built on your home without first being sure no gas lines are underneath it.

If you cover your chimney flue with wire screening to keep out birds and leaves, be sure to use coarse (half-inch or larger) wire mesh. Finer mesh can clog and become hazardous.

Your gas furnace and water heater must be properly vented to the outside of the building with a sufficient flow of air available at all times in and around this equipment. If you have any doubt about this, have them checked by a qualified heating contractor, at once.

Always keep the area near your furnace free of paints, solvents, papers, rags and other combustibles.

If you smell gas...

Although natural gas is odorless in its natural state, we add a disagreeable smell to make it easily detectable in case any should escape.

Gas leakage may occur from faulty appliances, loose connections, service lines inside or outside your home, or from gas mains. Such leakage can be dangerous and should be dealt with promptly by experts.

If you ever smell gas—even if you do not use it in your own home, call Frederick Gas immediately at 662-2151.

If the odor is very strong and you are indoors, open windows and doors to ventilate. Go outside. Call us from a neighbor's house.

Do not turn any electrical switches on or off. And do not light matches, smoke cigarettes or create any source of combustion.



Frederick Gas

FREDERICK GAS COMPANY

The Energy Shortage Is A Natural Gas Shortage.

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George H. Lawrence

December 19, 1979

SAFETY BULLETIN

TO: ALL DELEGATES OF A.G.A. MEMBER COMPANIES

A.G.A. has been notified by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (see attached letter) of the potential failure of certain flexible metal connectors manufactured prior to 1968. The potential for failure appears to increase with the length of time the connector has been in service.

The connectors in question were manufactured with a button type end brazed directly to the corrugated tube. This design is recognizable by the fact that the tubing nut is not tapered and does not resemble a flare tube fitting such as those connectors used in refrigeration or automotive applications.

A.G.A. listed connectors of this design have not been manufactured since January 1, 1968, when the ANSI Standard Z21.24 for flexible connectors was revised to prohibit this type of construction.

Attached for your information is a portion of a service bulletin initially used by one utility to alert appropriate personnel to this potential problem. It is suggested that if necessary, you promptly initiate appropriate corrective action within your company.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has asked for our suggestions for any subsequent Commission actions and Roy Siskin, Director, Operating & Engineering Services, A.G.A., 703/841-8451, will coordinate any suggestions you might have or you may wish to contact CPSC directly. Please contact Mr. Siskin if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bud", which is a common nickname for George H. Lawrence.

George H. Lawrence

GHL:eh

Enclosures

cc: A.G.A. Customer Service Committee

COPY OF
UTILITY COMPANY SERVICE
BULLETIN

Subject:

Flexible Brass Range Connector Failures

The occurrence of failure, while in use, of the "Cobra" brand-name, brass flexible connector, has become increasingly common. The type, age and construction all appear to be nearly the same in each case.

This particular brand of connector, although no longer in production, has been involved in at least two fires and several bad leak situations. It can be identified by the following information provided on its metal name tag:

APPLIANCE CONNECTOR
MFD. BY COBRA METAL HOSE
CHICAGO 32

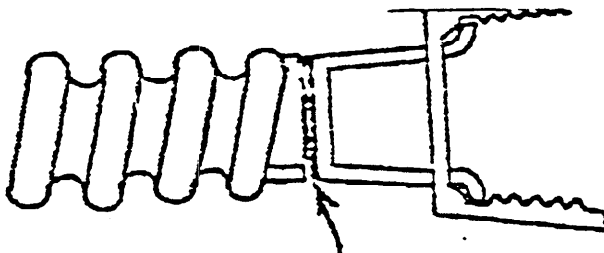
AGA

AGA

Note: This connector was manufactured prior to 1967.

Recently, two (2) other brand name connectors, utilizing the same general type of construction, have been found to be the cause of serious gas leakage while in service.

The connectors in question all share the common construction feature which provides for the end ferrules being soldered to the bellows section by only its wall thickness, which allows only a minimum of strength. (See diagram below.)



Soldered Surface

Action:

If connectors with this type of construction are encountered while on the job, the customer should be made aware of its history of failure, due to its end ferrule separating from the corrugated main section of the connector.

UTILITY COMPANY SERVICE BULLETIN

-2-

It should be recommended to them, that a new connector be installed in its place, and the details of this warning noted on your order. Obtaining the customer's signature on your order, in regard to this warning, would be further protection for the employee and the company in case the warning is ignored and an accident were to occur in the future.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

Mr. Dan Myers, Vice President
Government Relations and General Counsel
National LP Gas Association
1800 North Kent Street
Arlington, Va. 22209

Dear Mr. Myers:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission staff has learned of the failure of a corrugated metal connector (brand named "Cobra") which was produced between 1955 and 1965 by a Chicago-based manufacturer that is no longer in business. This connector was certified by the AGA Labs as conforming to the requirements of the then existing American National Standard issued by the ANSI Z-21 Committee. The failure of this connector has allegedly caused a number of fires in homes in one particular service area. We have reason to believe, however, that since this type of connector was used in other areas of the country, that similar problems could develop elsewhere.

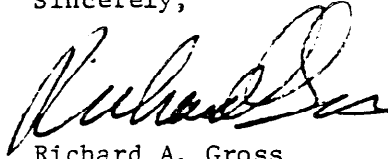
In light of the above, the Commission staff requests the assistance and cooperation of the National LP Gas Association in notifying all of its member companies and in recommending a course of action that will be appropriate to the degree of this potential hazard. We understand that this connector was not permitted to be installed in some jurisdictions and that this type of connector has been replaced in other areas. We believe, however, that many connectors of this type may still be in service, and therefore may be susceptible to creating a significant hazard to the occupants of those residences equipped with such connectors.

The staff of the Commission has developed a statement (enclosed) that is designed to inform the occupants of residences of the need to be aware of the potential for failure of this type of corrugated metal connector and to appropriately respond to any sign of a gas leak. We believe that such a statement should be issued to alert gas company customers to the hazard without causing undue alarm or encouraging homeowners to attempt to correct any problem by themselves.

If the gas companies choose not to issue such a notice, yet have reason to believe that these connectors are still in use in their service areas, we would recommend that they immediately provide the enclosed "If you smell gas" notice to all of their customers and perhaps take ads in the newspapers in their area similar to the one enclosed.

We would appreciate your immediate and serious attention to this potentially widespread problem. The cooperation and assistance of the National LP Gas Association in addressing the possible hazards created by the continued use of this type of connector will be gratefully appreciated as will your suggestions for any subsequent Commission actions.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Gross
Executive Director

Enclosures (3)

Attention Safety Notice

If you ever smell gas in your home,

- 1) Extinguish any candles, cigarettes, or other open flames;
- 2) Immediately open windows and outside doors for ventilation;
- 3) Don't touch electrical switches or turn on appliances;
- 4) Call your gas company immediately for emergency service from a neighbor's phone.

JAN 2 1980

Mr. Arie M. Verrips
Executive Director
American Public Gas Assoc.
2600 Virginia Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Mr. Verrips:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission staff has learned of the failure of a corrugated metal connector (brand named "Cobra") which was produced between 1955 and 1965 by a Chicago-based manufacturer that is no longer in business. This connector was certified by the AGA Labs as conforming to the requirements of the then existing American National Standard issued by the ANSI Z-21 Committee. The failure of this connector has allegedly caused a number of fires in homes in one particular service area. We have reason to believe, however, that since this type of connector was used in other areas of the country, that similar problems could develop elsewhere.

In light of the above, the Commission staff requests the assistance and cooperation of the American Public Gas Association in notifying all of its member companies and in recommending a course of action that will be appropriate to the degree of this potential hazard. We understand that this connector was not permitted to be installed in some jurisdictions and that this type of connector has been replaced in other areas. We believe, however, that many connectors of this type may still be in service, and therefore may be susceptible to creating a significant hazard to the occupants of those residences equipped with such connectors.

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We would appreciate your immediate and serious attention to this potentially widespread problem. The cooperation and assistance of the American Public Gas Association in addressing the possible hazards created by the continued use of this type of connector will be gratefully appreciated as will your suggestions for any subsequent Commission actions.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Gross
Executive Director

Enclosures (3)

bcc: OPM fil/echron/reading/central
OPM: DMackay:tt:18217/79

JAN 2 1980

X695-0221

George Siebert X 697-5947
(Safety Policy)

~~Mr.~~ M. Marienthal (EES)

Pent.
Wash. 20301

Mr. George Marienthal
Deputy Assistant Secretary (EES)
Department of Defense
Room 3E784
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Marienthal:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission staff has learned of the failure of a corrugated metal connector (brand named "Cobra") which was produced between 1955 and 1965 by a Chicago-based manufacturer that is no longer in business. This connector was certified by the American Gas Association laboratories as conforming to the requirements of the then existing American National Standard issued by the ANSI Z-21 Committee. The failure of this connector has allegedly caused a number of fires in homes in one particular service area. We have reason to believe, however, that since this type of connector was used in other areas of the country, that similar problems could develop elsewhere.

The CPSC staff have taken steps to address this potential safety hazard with the assistance of local gas suppliers. Enclosed is a letter which I have sent to the President of the American Gas Association (AGA). This letter outlines information which the CPSC staff have developed in cooperation with the AGA and requests assistance in notifying local gas companies of the potential hazard. Similar letters have been sent to the National LP Gas Association and the American Public Gas Association.

If, after reviewing the enclosed information, you believe that these connectors may have been installed in residential housing on any military base in this country or overseas, you and your staff may wish to take steps similar to those which I have recommended in my letter to AGA. Of course, other steps may be more appropriate to address a particular situation existing on any one base particularly if any military housing receives natural gas service from a source other than a commercial supplier or a public utility.

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I appreciate your attention in this matter. If you or your staff need additional information, please contact Douglas Noble, Program Manager for Emerging Hazards on 492-6453.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Gross
Executive Director

Enclosures

755-6522

Exec. Assistant Mrs. Williams

JAN 2 1960

Mr. Clyde McHenry
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Public Housing and Indian Programs
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Room 6230
541 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. McHenry:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission staff has learned of the failure of a corrugated metal connector (brand named "Cobra") which was produced between 1955 and 1965 by a Chicago-based manufacturer that is no longer in business. This connector was certified by the American Gas Association laboratories conforming to the requirements of the then existing American National Standard issued by the ANSI Z-21 Committee. The failure of this connector has allegedly caused a number of fires in homes in one particular service area. We have reason to believe, however, that since this type of connector was used in other areas of the country, that similar problems could develop elsewhere.

The CPSC staff have taken steps to address this potential safety hazard with the assistance of local gas suppliers. Enclosed is a letter which I have sent to the President of the American Gas Association (AGA). This letter outlines information which the CPSC staff have developed in cooperation with the AGA and requests assistance in notifying local gas companies of the potential hazard. Similar letters have been sent to the National LP Gas Association and the American Public Gas Association.

If, after reviewing the enclosed information, you believe that these connectors may have been installed in any public housing currently under your Department's authority, you and your staff may wish to take similar steps which I have recommended in my letter to AGA. Of course, other steps may be appropriate to address a particular situation existing in any public housing receiving natural gas service from a source other than a commercial supplier or a public utility.

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I appreciate your attention in this matter. If you or your staff need additional information, please contact Douglas Noble, Program Manager for Emerging Hazards on 492-6453.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Gross
Executive Director

Enclosures

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520-5135

NATIONAL LP-GAS ASSOCIATION

1800 N. KENT STREET

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209

Phone: 703/525-5135

DANIEL N. MYERS
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
& GENERAL COUNSEL

January 30, 1980

Mr. Richard A. Gross, Executive Director
Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

Dear Mr. Gross:

Enclosed are copies of the Safety Bulletin distributed to the approximately 4,000 marketer members of the National LP-Gas Association on January 28, 1980 by our Executive Vice President and General Manager, Mr. J. D. Capps, in response to your letter to me of January 2, 1980 relating to problems experienced with a corrugated metal connector named "Cobra".

We have requested our members to contact you directly, or forward their comments to Mr. Walter H. Johnson, NLPGA Vice President for Technical Services or myself for transmission to you. NLPGA was happy to be able to respond in this matter and to cooperate with the Consumer Product Safety Commission in working to correct a potentially serious problem. We have also enclosed copies of a leaflet which NLPGA has previously produced and distributed to users of LP-gas through our member companies. To date, over 10,000 of these leaflets have been distributed.

We will contact you should we receive any additional information or have further comments to offer in this matter. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Myers/pc

Daniel N. Myers

DNM:pc

Enclosure

cc: J. D. Capps

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**TO OUR
L.P.-GAS CUSTOMERS**

**Take 30
seconds to
read this
for your
protection.
Avoid problems
if you have
a gas leak**

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**Be Safe by Being Careful
With your LP-Gas**

Please have your family read this

If you smell gas, check pilots and burners on your range. Close burner valves and air out the house before relighting pilots. If you are unable to determine the source of the leak, immediately turn off the gas supply at the tank.

- DO NOT:**
- Strike a match
 - Use any open flame
 - Turn light or other electrical switches "on" or "off"

- DO:**
- Open windows and doors to allow gas to disperse
 - Get out of the house
 - Call your LP-gas dealer for service from your neighbor's house.