

SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Operations & Maintenance Office

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Propane Vendors
Contractors
Homeowners

September 23, 2011

Re: Propane Tank and Piping Installation

As the propane tank and/or service piping for many of the homes in Serene Lakes is upgraded this fall, the Sierra Lakes County Water District has seen a number of installations that can/will compromise the integrity of the sewer and water lateral piping serving the home. Specific concerns include:

- Excavation without making an effort to first locate the existing utilities has resulted in damage to water and sewer pipes. If a lateral is damaged the District must inspect the repair, at no charge to you, before the trench is backfilled. Unrepaired and/or unseen damage will result in water and sewer leakage and increased district operational costs.
- The installation of underground propane tanks and piping in the proximity of the water and sewer can/will compromise the homeowner's ability to repair the pipes at a later date.
- The construction of propane and sewer pipes in close proximity can result in leaking propane entering the sewer lateral and create an explosion risk. The District's construction standards require a **minimum** of 12-inches of horizontal separation between the water/sewer pipes and other utilities including the propane piping **and** tank. The material separating the utilities must be compacted backfill material or undisturbed native soil.
- While the District is not legally required to locate the laterals on the customer's property, we will make every effort to locate the water and sewer pipes at no cost to the property owner or contractor within 48-hours of a request. The District strongly suggests that if the marked location of the water/sewer pipe is within 18-inches of the planned excavation for the propane piping or tank, the pipe be exposed to confirm the exact location.

The District appreciates the efforts of property owners and suppliers to improve their propane systems, but respectfully requests that caution be exercised to protect the integrity of the existing utilities. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions concerning your water or sewer utilities.

Sincerely,



Bill Quesnel, PE
Operations Manager