


V NEWS OF
A L U E

DANGEROUS GAS LEAKS

Community association owners and managers need to be aware of dangerous, older flexible gas connectors used to connect home appliances to gas supply pipes. These gas connectors are made of brass, are uncoated, and can crack or break, leading to a fire or explosion. They are used most often with gas ranges, ovens, and clothes dryers. These failed connectors have been associated with 38 deaths and 63 injuries nationwide since 1980. Morgan & Cheves, Inc., strongly recommends residents have their gas appliances inspected to see if they have one of these old, potentially dangerous connectors.

What's The Problem? These older brass connectors have a serious flaw in how their tubing was joined to their end pieces. Over time, the end pieces can separate from the tubing and cause a serious gas leak, explosion, or fire. The older these connectors get, the greater the possibility of failure and the more dangerous they become.

What Should Be Done? This type of gas connector has not been manufactured for about 20 years, but some still exist in consumers' homes. Although not all uncoated connectors have this flaw, it is very difficult to tell which ones do. Therefore, any uncoated brass connector should be replaced immediately with either a new stainless steel connector or a new plastic-coated brass connector.

Who Should Do The Inspection? Only a qualified professional, such as a plumber, heating contractor, or gas company service technician, should check these gas connectors and replace them if necessary. Consumers should not check the gas connectors themselves. Moving an older appliance, even slightly, whether to clean behind it or to inspect its gas connector, can cause the connectors to crack and result in a gas leak and explosion.

Where Do I Find Someone To Do The Inspection? Here are three suggestions to arrange an inspection and/or replacement:

- Call the company that installed the appliance.
- Check the telephone book for a licensed appliance service or heating or plumbing firm.
- Call Washington Gas at 703-941-HEAT for a referral to a licensed appliance service or heating or plumbing firm.

Questions Or Concerns? If you need some answers, please call Steve Dickerson at Morgan & Cheves, Inc. (703-739-2346) or your Association attorney.

April 1998

MORGAN & CHEVES
INC.
I N S U R A N C E

110 South Union Street • Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703-683-5880 • 800-627-3136 • fax 703-549-1114