

TECHNICAL INFORMATION COMMUNICATION



Quality and Continuous Improvement

Number: TIC2018-0009

Date: 10/25/2018

Title: Gas Valve Over-Pressurization

Product Category: Heating Products

Products Affected All Gas-Fired furnaces and SPP products

Technical Information

Media and the National Transportation Safety Board have reported that a natural gas pipeline in the area north of Boston, MA experienced a high pressure event on September 13, 2018 of 6 PSIG or higher in the gas main. Reports further indicate that this event resulted in numerous fires and one reported fatality. UTC Climate, Controls, Security has received questions about the effect of a high pressure event on gas furnaces, boilers, and other natural gas fired products.

The natural gas valves currently used in such equipment are typically rated up to a stated maximum level of pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). Exposure to a pressure higher than a valve's PSIG - even if temporary in nature - could adversely and permanently impact the valves' reliability and present a potential safety risk to customers. A natural gas valve exposed to a high pressure event could also fail, which could result in a gas leak and serious bodily injury or even death. Residential and light commercial natural gas valves currently used in furnaces, boilers, and other natural gas fired products supplied by UTC Climate, Controls, Security are rated up to a stated maximum level of 0.5 PSIG.

If there is reason to suspect that a natural gas valve in such equipment was exposed to a high pressure event, we strongly recommend that the gas valve be immediately replaced.

If you have customers in the affected area, it is also recommended that you contact your gas company, as they may have programs in place to assist.

Technical Information

If pressure exceeds 0.5 PSIG (14-in. w.c.), gas supply pipe must be disconnected from furnace and capped before and during supply pipe pressure test. If test pressure is equal to or less than 0.5 PSIG (14-in. w.c.), turn off electric shutoff switch located on furnace gas control valve and accessible manual equipment shutoff valve before and during supply pipe pressure test. After all connections have been made, purge lines and check for leakage at furnace prior to operating furnace.

References

Refer to the equipment installation instructions regarding pressure testing of gas supply lines.

Only trained and qualified personnel should design, install, repair and service HVAC systems and equipment. All national standards and safety codes must be followed when designing, installing, repairing and servicing HVAC systems and equipment. It is the responsibility of the Dealer to ensure local codes, standards, and ordinances are met.