

1301. Scope

- (a) These rules apply to employees performing gas distribution and transmission work.
- (b) Employees shall also follow approved company guidance documents, approved gas guidance documents, and applicable requirements in Section 7, "Electric Transmission and Distribution Underground", Section 8, "Electric Substations", and Section 10, "Fossil Power Plants" that apply to Gas Department work.

1302. Primary Operations and Duties

See CSP Rule P-11, "Employee Responsibilities" and CSP Rule 24, "Responsibilities for Primary Operations".

1303. Pressure Relieving Valves

- (a) Pressure relieving valves shall be checked by qualified employees in conformance with schedules in approved gas guidance documents.
- (b) Valves located ahead of pressure relieving valves for the sole purpose of enabling the pressure relieving valve to be taken out of service for inspection or repair, shall be locked in the open position.

Exception- Below ground station valves do not need to have individual locking devices.

1304. Vent Stacks

- (a) Vent stacks shall be of sufficient size and height to minimize the hazard of releasing gas in the work area when used for:

- (1) Blowing down mains.
- (2) Purging mains
- (3) Tying in mains using the “fire control” method. See CSP Rule 1309(a), “Fire Control Method” for additional requirements.
- (b) Vent stacks shall be properly bonded and grounded.
- (c) Refer to approved gas guidance documents for allowable vent stack materials.

1305. Sources of Ignition or Fire Near Escaping Gas

- (a) Employees excavating over or near a leaking gas line or doing work that does or may involve escaping gas shall keep all forms of ignition upwind a safe distance, except as provided elsewhere. Employees shall continually assess conditions to ensure safety. Static electricity as a source of ignition must be considered. Backhoes, trenchers, or similar equipment may be used to excavate near leaking gas when considered necessary and feasible by the employee-in-charge.
- (b) Sources of ignition including, but not limited to, matches, lighters, electric tools, battery powered devices, flashlights, cell phones and pagers shall not be carried by employees when entering or working in an atmosphere containing 1% or more gas in atmosphere (20% or more of the lower explosive limit, LEL).

Exceptions:

- (1) Safety matches may be carried by gas service representatives in the performance of their routine work.
- (2) Approved tools meeting Class I Division I Group C or D explosion-proof rating, per Cal/OSHA Title 8 2540.1
- (c) Where escaping gas is a possibility, a fully charged fire extinguisher shall be placed upwind in the immediate work site.
- (d) Gas shall not be blown against the side of an excavation; it must be vented upward.
- (e) Whenever a section of metallic gas pipe is to be cut and separated, the line shall be blown down to atmospheric pressure and an approved metallic jumper shall be established across the point where the separation is to be made to prevent a spark or arc from occurring.
Exception: Two-inch and smaller metallic gas lines, may be separated without a jumper unless otherwise directed by the employee-in-charge.
- (f) Appropriate pipe cutters shall be used to cut all gas lines.
 - (1) When a gaseous atmosphere is present or is anticipated, tools used on metallic pipe shall be lubricated and handled carefully to prevent sparks.
 - (2) On plastic pipe, follow approved gas guidance documents to prevent sparks.

- (g) Bystanders and traffic shall not be allowed to remain near work where gas may escape or is escaping.

1306. Electrical Hazards

Employees shall comply with the glove requirements of CSP Rules 5(a)(3), CSP 22, “Electric Hazards”, CSP Rule 405, “Minimum Approach Distances”, and CSP Rule 704, “Minimum Approach Distances”, and approved company guidance documents, approved gas guidance documents.

1307. “Man on Line” and “Caution” Tags

Employees shall comply with the requirements of CSP Rule 25, “Man on Line” and “Caution Tags” and approved company guidance documents and approved gas guidance documents.

1308. Welding or Cutting on Lines or Equipment that Contain Gas

- (a) Welding on live gas lines, mains, services, or equipment shall be done only by qualified employees.
- (b) Before welding on pipeline, employees shall verify with the employee-in-charge that the pressure in the pipeline will allow safe welding.
- (c) A fully charged fire extinguisher shall be immediately available at each location where welding or cutting will be conducted.
- (d) Matches or cigarette lighters shall not be carried by welders, or any employees engaged in welding or cutting operations.