

Fuel Safety Bulletin

2009-01

Acceptable outdoor tubing supports

Dated: March 10, 2009

Recently, we have been asked whether fences and trees are acceptable supports for piping/tubing runs outdoors.

Clauses 6.8.3 and 6.16.3 of the *CSA B149.1 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code* state;

6.8.3 Piping or tubing shall not be supported by other piping or tubing, and shall be installed with individual supports of sufficient strength and quality. Supports shall be spaced in accordance with Table 2.6.2.

6.16.3 Piping or tubing shall be mounted, braced, and supported to provide for expansion, contraction, jarring, vibration, and settling, and shall be protected against either damage or breakage due to strain, wear, and mechanical impact.

As noted in the code clauses above, secure support of piping/tubing is imperative, and the movement of installed piping/tubing is something that must be guarded against.

Fences are not considered to be structures under the National Building Code and are, therefore, subject to extremes in structural integrity. Many fences are also in, or adjacent to, vehicle movement areas where they will be subject to vehicle impact damage.

Trees, by their very nature, are flexible and prone to movement.

RULING: In view of the susceptibility to movement in these locations, tubing and piping shall not be supported by fences or trees.

Dale C. Stewart
Chief Inspector, Fuel Safety