



UPDATE

H e a t i n g F u e l s E d i t i o n

Communicating Fuel Oil Requirements To Customers

TSSA is urging heating professionals to ensure their customers are up to speed on fuel oil regulations to prevent hazardous and costly spills and leaks.

We are advising all owners of fuel oil heating systems in Ontario to register their underground fuel storage tanks and have their heating systems inspected to meet current requirements under provincial fuel safety laws. **TSSA is also informing tank owners that their fuel supplier may refuse to fill their underground tank if it is not registered with TSSA** This does not include oil

If the underground fuel tank was installed

25 or more years ago
The tank must be removed or upgraded by **October 1, 2006**

20 to 24 years ago
The tank must be removed or upgraded by **October 1, 2007**

10 to 19 years ago
The tank must be removed or upgraded by **October 1, 2008**

Less than a year to 9 years ago
The tank must be upgraded or removed by **October 1, 2009**

tanks in basements and above-ground fuel storage tanks.

TSSA investigation statistics show that old, rusting

underground tanks and poorly maintained and defective heating systems are the lead-

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Gas Technician Update Workshop On The Web

TSSA is pleased to announce the launch of its first online learning program. This program, developed jointly with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), is a web-based version of the existing instructor-led

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What You Need to Know About the TSSA Inspection Process

By Ted Dance, Director, Operations and Catherine Taylor, Director of Risk Management and Engineering

We recently surveyed a number of our inspection clients and found that we need to further explain how our inspection business works – specifically, how we set and meet our inspection priorities.

In the last TSSA Update, we talked about how our inspection staff is directed by four team leaders throughout Ontario. (*See Contacts to find the Team Leader in your area*). Each team is responsible for

our audits, investigations, events and inspections. The following is a brief summary of these activities:

Contractor Audits

Audits on contractors are completed on a cyclical basis (*once every three years*). As part of the audit, we review the field processes and then complete audits of at least three field installations to confirm that the requirements of

the regulation are met. The contractor audit is a mandatory requirement under Ontario law. This process is completed once per year for those contractors who have qualified for the “Quality Assessed” program.

Facility Audits

Audits of liquid fuels and propane facilities are also completed on a cyclical basis.

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WORKSHOP ON THE WEB...

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Gas Technician Update Workshop. The instructor-led program has been available through TSSA's accredited training providers in Ontario since the fall of 2001.

TSSA is committed to ensuring training is available and convenient for technicians throughout Ontario. The new online program has been designed as an alternative choice for technicians who are located in remote areas where the update workshop is not readily available or for those who have difficulty attending an instructor-led program.

This Web-based program offers the convenience of learning at your own pace, schedule, and location. It utilizes enhanced interactive multimedia features including electronic tests to ensure that the learner has acquired the knowledge necessary to maintain the TSSA certificate.

For more information on rates, how to register, and availability, please check the TSSA Web site at www.tssa.org or CSA at www.csa.ca.



FUEL OIL REQUIREMENTS... *continued from cover*

ing sources of fuel oil leaks and spills. These leaks and spills can result in serious environmental damage and costly clean-up repairs for homeowners.

Owners of underground fuel oil tanks must upgrade these tanks with leak and spill-protection equipment or have them removed. The first step for owners is to register their tank, free of charge, with the TSSA.

The provincial regulations include a phased-in, multi-year program to upgrade or remove these tanks.

The new regulations also

The first step for owners is to register their tank, free of charge, with the TSSA.

require fuel oil distributors to conduct inspections on all fuel oil heating systems. Most fuel oil spills are preventable by a simple inspection during regular maintenance and by replacing ageing or defective components.

The inspection process includes all underground and

aboveground tanks, associated piping, venting and heating appliances such as furnaces, boilers and water heaters. Periodic inspections – at least once every 10 years – must be performed by distributors on each fuel oil system serviced. **Fuel oil cannot be delivered to equipment that poses an immediate hazard.**

For more information about the underground tank registration and the new inspection requirements, please call TSSA's Fuels Safety program at (416) 325-2000/ toll-free at 1-877-682-TSSA (8772) or visit TSSA's Web site at www.tssa.org. ■

THE TSSA INSPECTION PROCESS... *continued from cover*

The purpose of this audit is to confirm compliance with the regulations and safe operation of the facility. The frequency of visits to a particular facility is determined by risk criteria including compliance, history and age.

These could result in additional inspections of the contractor and the facility depending on the nature of the concern.

Special Inspection Activities

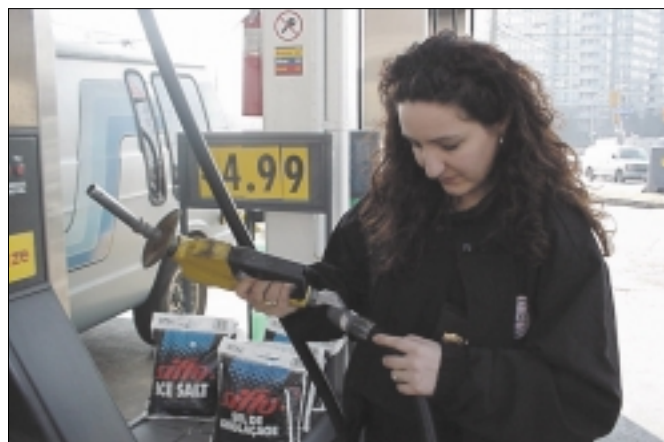
We spend a great deal of time conducting inspections at

Investigations

Significant incidents generally result in investigations which often focus on equipment, installation or maintenance practices. This can also result in additional inspections of the contractor or at a facility. It is important to note that audits will result in an inspection fee and that other inspections could result in a partial or a full fee charged to the contractor or facility depending on the nature of inspection.

Should you have any questions regarding our inspection program, please contact your local inspector, team leaders, our Operational Manager Mike Scarland or TSSA's Toronto office directly (*see the contact list on the last page*).

Over the next few TSSA Updates for our heating fuels clients, we intend to highlight some of our more significant activities. We would like to hear your suggestions on potential subjects and ask that you contact us via email at either tdance@tssa.org or ctaylor@tssa.org. ■



TSSA Inspectors visit liquid fuels and propane facilities on a cyclical basis to confirm compliance with regulations and safe operation of the facility.

Unscheduled Inspections

Inspections generally result from the public, contractors or local fire departments who ask us to investigate items of concern. These may be related to equipment, installation, maintenance practices and/or end use.

events such as local fairs and special events, particularly during the summer months. We primarily spend our time ensuring that barbecues and special equipment such as fuel-fired special effects equipment meet relevant safety codes.

Fuel Regulation Corner

Improved Service to Multiple-License Holders

In order to better serve clients who have multiple licences with TSSA, we have enhanced our systems to enable you to “set” the expiry date for your licenses to the same date each year. This is particularly useful for our clients with a fleet of tankers. If you would like to find out more about this new process, please contact Maria Johnson at (416) 325-2950 or Debra Thiel at (416) 325-2924 to make arrangements.

Warning Tags – Notice of “Unacceptable Conditions”

Under section 13 & 14 of Ontario Regulation for Gaseous Fuels (O.Reg. 212/01), certificate or R.O.T. (record of training) holders have certain obligations when they find that an appliance or work is in an unacceptable condition. They are required to notify the user and the fuel distributor both verbally (in person or over the phone) and in writing. In addition, they must attach a notice (warning tag) to the appliance.

The warning tag shall contain information on the condition of the unacceptable conditions including the section of the Code that it is not complying with. The tag shall fully describe the problem and its location where the problem is (e.g., leaking of a supply line at branch connection to dryer). The writing on the warning

tag should be printed and must be legible.

The contractors making the subsequent repair and remove the tag shall endorse the warning tag with their certificate number, name and address and send it by mail, fax or deliver it to the distributor.

Why You Need to Follow Codes

When Inspectors issue Orders for work that is in non-compliance, one of the most often heard comments from contractors is “It’s been that way for years – there is no safety hazard – it’s just a technicality”. It is worth noting that TSSA Inspectors have to spend a large portion of their time investigating incidents that were reported as “always done that way”.

Another common misconception is that “carbon monoxide (CO) is not an issue with fuel oil burning appliances”. We have had two separate CO fatalities related to fuel oil over the last 1 1/2 years.

TSSA investigated 444 fuels-related incidents last year. Please review TSSA’s annual State of Public Safety Report which is posted on our Web site at www.tssa.org for more information regarding fuel-related incidents.

Ensuring that work is done to Code is not just a technicality – it

is your responsibility to protect your clients as well as you and your company.

Exemption from Certification

All persons carrying out work on gas-fired appliances must be certified in accordance with the Fuel Industry Certificates Regulation O.Reg. 215/01. The requirement is also stated in Gaseous Fuels Regulation O.Reg. 212/01, with certain exemptions.

Section 6 of O.Reg. 212/01 states:

- (1) No person shall install, alter, purge, activate, repair, service or remove any appliance, equipment or other thing employed in the handling or use of gas unless the person is the holder of a certificate for that purpose.
 - (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to prevent a person from undertaking duct cleaning if that is the only activity undertaken and the person does not interfere with the appliance, equipment or thing.
 - (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to prevent a person without the appropriate certificate from undertaking any of the activities mentioned in that subsection in the presence of the holder of the certificate.
- Due diligence must be applied when interpreting or using the exemption allowed in 6(3). **The exemption to be properly certi-**

fied for the task does not apply to any uncertified workers and only applies to lower level certificate holders working in the presence of the holder of the proper certificate.

Therefore, an uncertified worker is not allowed to conduct any of the activities listed in 6(1).

A lower level certificate holder (e.g. G.3 or GP) can conduct this work if an appropriate certificate holder (e.g. G.1, G.2, DA, IMT, LP) is **immediately** present and in full control of the activity that falls within the scope of the supervising certificate holder.

ACR Copper Tubing Update

In March and July 2002 issues of TSSA Update the use of ACR copper was discussed and commitment was made to bring this issue to the CSA B149 Committee. During the third week of September 2002 the Sub-committee on Piping and Tubing met and reconfirmed its preference to only allow the use of type G, K and L tubing for gas service.

This brings the issue to the close in that we have discussed it at our Risk Reduction Groups and were advised to conform to the National Code, we brought it forward for discussion at the national committee level where the decision was made to limit gas tubing to types G, K and L. ■

Quality and Standards News

Gas/Oil Apprenticeship Program in Ontario

TSSA is currently working with industry advisory groups and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to launch a Gas/Oil Apprenticeship program in Ontario. This initiative will provide an alternate route to obtain training and certification in the heating industry, recognized through the TSSA legislation. Trade recognition in Ontario should also assist in labour mobility across Canada to obtain the inter-provincially recognized Red Seal Program. We are also looking to update and improve the training standards across Ontario to further ensure as much consistency as possible for hands-on and

theoretical training as well as improved examination standards and access to training. ■

Overview of Industrial Maintenance Technician Certification and Assessment Process

The legal requirement that a person to be certified to work on hydrocarbon fuel-fired appliances and equipment has been mandatory since the mid-1960's. Since then, the requirements to become certified as an Industrial Maintenance Technician (IMT) have undergone various changes in response to feedback from industry clients, certificate holders and training providers.

This IMT certificate allows

the holder to work on natural gas, propane, or fuel oil appliances of any input **located at the premise of his or her industrial employer.** The scope of work allowed under an IMT certificate is only limited by the focussed training provided on the equipment in the particular plant where the certificate is valid.

Although the certificate is held by an individual person as a result of successful completion of a recognized training course, **it is only valid if the employer of the certificate holder has proof, which is acceptable to TSSA, of the certificate holder's training on the site-specific equipment.** As such, the validity and scope

of the certificate depends on a partnership agreement accepted by the certificate holder, employer, training provider, and TSSA.

To be certified as an Industrial Maintenance Technician, an individual must successfully complete a training program and series of theoretical exams and practical assessments delivered by a training provider who is accredited for the purpose of TSSA. The training program must meet the customized requirements of the IMT curriculum as identified by TSSA after an assessment of the industry and the individual applicant.

The employer is required

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Most Frequently Asked Questions about Examination and Procedures

Question: Who do I contact to set up an examination?

Answer: Michelle Mazarello is the Examination Administrator at the Technical Standards and Safety Authority. Her telephone number is (416) 325-2061 and her email address is mmazarello@tssa.org.

Question: Where can I write the theory exam to obtain certification?

Answer: Theory examinations can be written at TSSA or at your local college or accredited training provider and are scheduled in advance. For further details, contact Michelle Mazarello, Examination Administrator.

Question: What can I expect on an examination?

Answer: Basically, an examination consists of 150 – 180 multiple choice questions. Some fully formatted questions are included in the

examination. The approximate sitting time is 3.5 hours per Gas Technician or Oil Burner Technician examinations.

Question: If I have been approved to challenge an examination in certification, what is the first step to complete the requirements as stated in the approval letter?

Answer: The Challenge Process for Certification must be approved prior to any examination or practical assessment. If an approval is granted to a client through a Certification Standards Advisor in Quality & Standards, the client is given an Approval letter. The first step is to complete a theory examination. This is booked through Michelle Mazarello. Once the theory examination is completed, a practical evaluation is completed with a Fuels Safety Inspector in your area.

Question: When and where can the practical be done?

Answer: Once you have successfully passed the theory exam you can complete the practical skills assessment of the exam. A Practical Skills Assessment is a service generally provided an individual who is requesting to be re-instated and wishes to challenge the qualifying examination and the practical evaluation. The practical skills assessment is conducted with the Fuel Safety Inspector in your area.

Question: What do I need to write an exam?

Answer: You will be required to bring your codebook, a basic calculator and picture ID on the day of the examination.

Question: When can I get the results?

Answer: Generally, you will receive results within 3 weeks

of writing an examination at TSSA. However, if the examination is written at a different site, it may take longer due to the time period between the written assessments and the receipt of the assessments at TSSA.

Question: Can I appeal an Examination?

Answer: Examination appeals or reviews are provided upon request. This process provides the candidate with a breakdown of the examination by topic and indicates the number of questions drawn for each topic and the number of incorrect responses by topic.

Question: What is the passing grade?

Answer: The passing grade on an examination and practical skills demonstration is 75%. ■

to maintain records of the training provided to the certificate holder and to update that training as additional equipment or duties warrant. The scope of certificate – in other words, the work permitted under the certificate – depends on the record of training.

In April 2001, TSSA instituted a policy identifying the scope of certificate in the assessment report required for any new IMT certificates.

We are currently seeking IMT Risk Reduction Group's input, focussing on the current processes and procedures of the IMT program. Working with this group, TSSA will jointly develop strategic plans to continually improve and enhance such processes. Industry stakeholders, including industry clients and training providers are welcome to join this group. Please contact June Ballegeer, Certification Standards Advisor, at (416) 325-0224 or jballegeer@tssa.org if you are interested.

Accredited Training Providers Audit

Since June 2001, Quality & Standards have commenced formal auditing procedures for TSSA's Accredited Training Providers throughout the Province of Ontario. The Assessments consists of three various programs including:

- **A Program Audit** which is applicable to the program delivered for the specific certification category.
- **A Laboratory Audit** is conducted primarily focusing on the Lab Equipment specific to the programs delivered. This is essential to ensure that the training provider has access to equipment required to deliver the training and meet the performance objectives set out for the program(s) delivered.



On July 3, 2002, a Program and Lab Audit was completed in Kingston at St. Lawrence College. Standing to the left is Mr. Ed Haystead, instructor with a Gas Technician 3 Program.

• **A Fundamental Audit** which consists of various pieces of information directly related to the Accreditation criteria and the Approved Programs to meet specific standards and conditions.

For more information, please contact Theresa Coombes at (416) 325-2447 or tcoombes@tssa.org.

Certification Requirements – Gas Technician/Oil Burner Technician 2

Through dialogue with clients, it has become evident that there is confusion in regard to the requirements in obtaining a higher level of certification for Oil and Gas Technicians. A certified Gas/Oil Burner

Technician 3 has two options in obtaining a Gas/Oil Burner Technician 2:

- 1) Challenge any of the higher level, permanent certificates of qualification without the prerequisite training programs by completing the challenge process which includes a written examination and practical assessment**. You can do that only if you have:
 - a) 4000 hours of work experience has been accumulated as a Gas Technician 3 or Oil Burner Technician 3 from the date the certificate issued. Prior, uncertified field experience time will not be recognized or considered valid towards certification requirements; and
 - b) the work experience referred to above is fully documented and verified by the supervising certificate holder and the employer.

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Training Material Available

TSSA offers excellent training materials. Study materials are also available to assist in preparing for qualifying examinations. The following details some of the materials available:

Materials	Price *	Shipping/Unit*
Gas Technician Curriculum 1 – Modules 26 to 32	\$25.00	\$5.00
Gas Technician Curriculum 2 – Modules 10 to 25	\$25.00	\$5.00
Gas Technician Curriculum 3 – Modules 1 to 9	\$25.00	\$5.00
Gas Tech. 1, 2 & 3 (complete set)	\$65.00	\$10.00
Gas Tech. Training Profile	\$25.00	\$5.00
Oil Burner Tech 3 Student Manual	\$180.00	\$10.00
Oil Burner Tech 2 Student Manual	\$225.00	\$10.00
Oil Burner Tech 3 Instructor Manual	\$400.00	\$10.00
Oil Burner Tech 2 Instructor Manual	\$400.00	\$10.00
Oil Burner Technician Update Books	\$35.00	**
Oil Regulation Handbooks	\$4.00	**
Gas Technician Update Books	**	**

* GST Extra

** Please contact Gary Prashar at (416) 325-9230 or gprashar@tssa.org in regards to any of the above materials.

Codebooks, Gas Technician Workbooks for the G3, G2 and G1 modules are available through CSA International at (416) 747-2300.

Industry News

Valve Proving Systems

A valve-proving system is a safety control that verifies the effective closure of two safety shutoff valves in series by detecting gas leakage. The system was introduced in Germany in the early 1970s. There are passive and active types. The system monitors the pressure between the two safety shutoff valves to determine if there is any leakage.

For the more common block and bleed arrangement, if the main valves leak, the vent valve minimizes the potential for leakage into the furnace by diverting any leaking gas to a safer location. The ignition still follows after the pre-purge. Unlike a vent valve, the valve-proving system does not allow for ignition if either valve is detected as leaking. The issue is that our approval codes and appliance certification standards

do not recognize this technology and that there are no North American certification standards which could be used to certify valve proving systems. Until such time as appropriate revisions are made to our Codes and Certification standards standards are developed, TSSA will allow the use of valve proving systems on field approved appliances provided:

1. appliance input is less than 10 000 000 Btuh; and,
2. the safety shut off valves are certified to ANSI Z21.21/CGA 6.5 Standard and are marked CI.

Keeping Your Clients Safe This Heating Season

With the heating season in full swing, you should remind your clients of the need to have a professional inspection of their fuel-burning heating systems – including

furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, water heaters and space heaters. This is particularly important for detecting potentially deadly carbon

Having a professional inspection of the appliances is the first line of defense against the silent killer, CO poisoning.

monoxide (CO) leaks.

The most important message to homeowners is that all fuel burning appliances can produce and leak deadly CO, a colorless and odorless gas. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath,

nausea and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death. Having a professional inspection of the appliances is the first line of defense against the silent killer, CO poisoning.

The inspection should cover the integrity of the system including proper air intake and exhaust. The chimneys, flues and vents should be checked for leakage and blockage by debris, birds, insects or other animals; the blockage could cause the exhaust gases to enter the home.

Homeowners should also be reminded that certified CO detectors should be installed adjacent to sleeping areas in the home. CO detectors are a good second line of defence against CO exposure. However, they are no substitute for the care and maintenance of a home heating system. ■

QUALITY & STANDARDS

Certification Requirements – Gas Technicians/Oil Burner Technician 2

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- 2) Complete an Approved Gas/Oil Burner Technician 2 Program through an Accredited Training Provider

****A word of caution: The examinations are difficult and requires a certain amount of preparation. You should first obtain the training profiles and study materials. Only when you feel that you are ready should you attempt the examinations.**

Please contact June Balleger, Certification Standards Advisor, at (416) 325-0221 or jballeger@tssa.org for more information. ■

CSA B149 Committee Update

The following is a brief summary of the relevant structure and activities of the B149 Committee process to give you a better understanding of how the Committee process works.

The structure consists of the main committee and five sub-committees. The main committee maintains the responsibility for Code content but most often relies on recommendations made by the specific subject area sub-committees. If you look at pages VIII to XVII in the B149 Code, you will find the listing of the sub-committees and its members. The subcommittees meet in September each year.

Where consensus is reached

at the sub-committee level, sub-committee recommendations are then balloted (voted on by the main committee members and the Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council (IGAC). Results of this vote are reviewed by the main committee meeting in June the following year and again if consensus is reached, revisions are accepted and will be published at the next printing of the Code which comes out every 5 years.

Without a doubt, the process is long and tedious but also based on consensus and designed to allow for as much input and consultation with everyone involved as possible.

This is why it is so important for you to voice your concerns to your industry, association or regulatory authority representatives or for that matter get involved yourselves and submit your comments and suggestions directly to the committee secretary.

The following is a summary of some key topics of discussion at the 2002 meeting in September:

1. Note #2 under Table 5.22.2 requires testing of factory coated piping at 100 psig. Some people interpret this to apply to factory coated Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) or for that matter coated type G tubing.

Facility Quality Assessment Program Enhances Safety



Campus Living staff pose with their new "Quality Assessed" banner presented by TSSA at a ceremony held at Fanshawe College.

TSSA's Facility Quality Assessment program is a voluntary program designed to assist industrial and commercial facilities comply with the various public safety statutes that TSSA administers.

This is accomplished by forming a safety partnership with the client. The program

first identifies all areas of non-compliance. TSSA Quality Assessors then prepare a report for the client outlining the areas that need to be addressed and, perhaps most importantly, why they need to be addressed. We then work with the client in developing a comprehensive, risk-based

action plan to correct all unsafe conditions and areas of non-compliance.

The most recent organization to be TSSA "Quality Assessed" is Campus Living Centres Inc. This Canadian-based company, has provided expertise in the planning, designing, financing, con-

struction and management of student housing and conference facilities for over 13 years. They current have 12 on-campus facilities under contract in Ontario and one in Alberta.

Campus Living first approached TSSA as a result of some issues discovered at a Campus Living managed building during a Facility Quality Assessment of Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. As a safety conscious corporation, Campus Living was concerned about the state of safety at their other facilities and gave TSSA the go-ahead to Quality Assess all 12 Ontario facilities and the one in Alberta as well.

This success reinforces the many benefits of TSSA's innovative approaches to achieving and advancing public safety in Ontario and, in this case, the Province of Alberta. As well, Campus Living Centres Inc. is to be commended on their commitment to the safety of their facilities and the residents within.

For more details of the Program, please contact Ken Langer at (416) 325-9623 or klanger@tssa.org. ■

Our interpretation is that this note applies only to piping as opposed to tubing.

2. Table 5.22.2 states that all welded piping must be tested to 50 psig or 1.5 times the maximum operating pressure. Our interpretation is that the intent was to test welded piping at a minimum of 50 psig or 1.5 times the maximum operating pressure whichever is greater as opposed to whichever pressure is the lowest.
3. In response to industry request we proposed to include vacuum purging procedure in addition to the more conventional purging procedures described in

Appendix A of B149.2. This recommendation was accepted and will be balloted in the upcoming months.

4. CSA advised that a computerized venting system calculator and brochures will be available shortly. Computerized version will return vent type and size if you enter appliance specs, vent connector configuration and chimney height. Brochures will help you do the same but perhaps at a slower pace. If you are interested in obtaining either one you may wish to contact CSA at (416) 747-4000. The brochures will also be available in our

Toronto head office.

5. Failures of flexible gas supply connectors on infrared tube type heaters continue to be reported in Alberta. The issue appears to be related the type of flex connector and its configuration. In a nutshell, the connectors are cracking and leaking gas. At this time we do not have any reports of similar failures in Ontario. Until such time as we gain more information on this issue, please make sure that all connectors you install are installed in accordance with the heater manufacturer's certified installation instructions. ■

TSSA Contacts

Main Switchboard

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**For inquiries about how to
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tion, or certificate or their
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UPDATE

We welcome your comments and story ideas for future editions
of this newsletter. Please contact:

TSSA UPDATE Heating Fuels Edition

Fuels Safety Program

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