



August 19, 2016

## FLOODS AND GAS HEARTH/SPACE HEATING APPLIANCES

After a flood or storm surge from a hurricane, homeowners are advised to take important safety precautions with regard to their home's gas appliances including the hearth and space heating appliances.

Flood damaged products should be replaced not repaired. All inspection and replacement work on flooded equipment should be performed by qualified gas appliance personnel, not by the homeowners.

Gas appliances, such as hearth and space heating, natural gas and propane gas, have gas control valves that are especially vulnerable to water damage from floods and that damage may not be easy to detect. Corrosion begins inside the valves and controls, and damage may not be readily visible, even if the outside of the device is clean and dry. At a minimum, this damage can result in reliability problems.

Propane systems also require attention to their gas pressure regulator. The regulator contains a small vent hole in its body to sense outside pressure. For effective gas pressure regulation, this hole must always remain unobstructed. During a flood, debris can easily plug the hole, causing dangerous malfunction or corrosion. The regulator should be replaced as water from floods can carry corrosive chemicals.

All of our owner and installation manuals have the following safety information:

- Do not use this heater if any part has been under water. Immediately call a qualified service technician to inspect the heater and to replace any part of the control system and any gas control that has been under water.
- Failure to do so could lead to a fire, serious injury or death.

Sincerely yours,

EMPIRE COMFORT SYSTEMS, INC.

  
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