



March 2017

A Safety Message from Clearwater Gas System: Excess Flow Valves

As required by the Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA), Clearwater Gas System is notifying customers (*via US mail*) that an excess flow valve (EFV) that meets the minimum PHMSA performance standards shall be installed on your natural gas service line. The EFV enhancement provides for a safe operation of your gas service line, but could also help to mitigate the consequences of a service line failure, such as a line break or rupture.

EFVs can mitigate gas leakage in natural gas distribution pipelines by shutting off unplanned, excessive gas flows. These events are primarily the result of construction or excavation damage to service lines that occurs between the gas main and the customer's home or building.

An EFV is a mechanical safety device that is installed inside a natural gas distribution service line between the street and residential meter. If there is a significant increase in the flow of gas (*such as due to a damaged line*), the EFV will “trip” or close to minimize the flow of gas through the service line limiting the amount of gas escaping into the atmosphere. With proper EFV valve sizing and during normal operation, the valve remains open against oncoming gas flow by a tension spring. EFVs are designed and sized so that during normal appliance operations, the EFV will not interrupt the flow of gas. However, during a significant increase in the flow of gas (*such as due to a damaged or severed service line*), the spring cannot overcome the force of gas, and the valve will close and remain closed until the corrective repair actions are completed. When the normal operating pressure conditions are restored, the EFV automatically resets.

There are certain conditions which may not be applicable and may exclude the installation of EFV where such installation is not required under 192.383 [c] as follows:

- When the service line does not operate at a pressure of 10 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) or greater through the year,
- When Clearwater Gas System has experienced contaminants in the gas stream that could interfere with the EFV operation,
- When an EFV could interfere with operation and maintenance activities,
- When an EFV is not manufactured, nor is available that meets the performance standards requirements of 192.381.

Clearwater Gas System is committed to operating a safe and efficient gas distribution system. As your community partner, we take every precaution necessary, to protect our gas infrastructure and ensure a safe environment. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please contact our Construction Gas Service Representative, Tonya Sandy at (727) 562-4900, ext. 7422.