GENERAL INFORMATION AND PG&E REQUIREMENTS

After a gas meter has been disconnected for more than six months, for any reason, PG&E requires a pressure test to assure the safety of the line before they will set a new or re-connect existing meter. This test is performed by the owner or his representative and inspected by the Building Inspection Division. This inspection includes verification of the pressure test and visual inspection of all Gas Utilization Appliances connected to that meter. The Inspection Division automatically sends authorization for connection to PG&E when the inspection is successful. PG&E will then set the meter. (You must set up an account with PG&E prior to installation of the meter.)

PROCEDURE

1. Apply for a Plumbing Permit at the Permit Center, West Wing, City Hall, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara.

2. An air test is required. The test consists of holding a minimum of 10 pounds of pressure for not less than 15 minutes.

3. The applicant provides a gauge. The gauge must have a needle valve (such as on inner tubes for bicycles, etc.). A bicycle tire pump can be used to pressurize the line. The higher end of the gauge range shall be no greater than 2 times the test pressure (CPC 318.5); most gas gauges have a maximum range of 15 psi. Do not over pressurize the system past the maximum marking or the gauge could be damaged. The gauge must have 1/10th pound increments (CPC 318.2). Gauges with any sign of damage are not acceptable.

4. For the test, temporarily cap off all outlets (water heater, gas range, etc.) before pressurizing the system. Per CPC Sec. 1210.9.1 and 1213.2.3 each outlet, including a valve, shall be closed gastight with a threaded cap and be left closed until the gas utilization equipment is connected. If the needle in the gauge drops, that indicates a leak. Leakage shall be located with an approved gas detector or noncorrosive leak detection fluid (CPC Sec. 1213.4.1).

5. Call for inspection after it is determined there are no leaks. Have the system under the test pressure for the inspection. Call for inspection (Code #308 on the Automated Inspection System) at (408) 615-2400. If you have any questions, Plumbing Inspectors are normally in the office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and can be reached at (408) 615-2440.