



# News

**Office of the Fire Chief  
Timothy M. Butler**

645 Randolph Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102

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January 11, 2010

**\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\***

## **Saint Paul to Implement Gas Shut Off Ordinance for Vacant Buildings**

- WHAT:** Press conference to announce the implementation of a new city ordinance to require that an “excess flow valve” be installed, or winterize the home with the gas service shut off, for certain vacant buildings in the city to reduce the risk of gas explosions on neighborhoods and firefighters.
- WHO:** \*\* Chris Coleman, Mayor, City of Saint Paul  
\*\* Bob Kessler, Director, Department of Safety & Inspections  
\*\* Tim Butler, Fire Chief, Saint Paul Fire Department
- WHERE:** 1053 Charles Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104
- WHEN:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010  
9:45 a.m.
- CONTACTS:** Angie Wiese  
Dept. of Safety and Inspections  
651-266-8953
- Steve Zaccard  
Saint Paul Fire Department  
651-315-5689

## New Ordinance for Vacant Buildings Gas Shut-Offs

# Press Conference Agenda

January 13, 2009

9:45a

1053 Charles Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104

1. **Welcome – Angie Wiese**, Department of Safety and Inspections, Public Information Officer/Fire Protection Engineer
2. **Director Bob Kessler**, Department of Safety and Inspections – Introduction of the new ordinance, what it does, and how it applies to certain vacant buildings.
3. **Fire Chief Tim Butler** – How the new ordinance will save lives and property.
4. **Mayor Chris Coleman** – Public safety in Saint Paul
5. **Mechanical Contractor** – Discuss the installation of an excess flow valve for the home.
6. Questions

## **VACANT BUILDING GAS SHUT-OFF/EXCESS FLOW VALVE ORDINANCE**

### **Leg Code Section 43.03(d)**

d) In order to decrease the risk of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions, the owner shall install an excess flow automatic gas shut-off valve ("excess flow valve") on the building's gas piping immediately downstream of the gas meter outlet within sixty (60) days after the designation of any building or portions thereof classified under Saint Paul Leg. Code § 43.02 (7) as a category II or a category III vacant building. If the owner fails to install an excess flow valve, the enforcement officer, under the authority of Saint Paul Leg. Code § 45, may install the excess flow valve on the building and enter the building if necessary. The costs incurred by the city for installation of the excess flow valve shall be assessed against the property as a summary nuisance abatement under the provisions of Saint Paul Leg. Code § 45. Owners of category II or III vacant buildings with active water and gas service on the effective date of this ordinance shall have sixty (60) days following the effective date of this ordinance to install an excess flow valve. Prior to installation of the excess flow valve, the owner, or another who can demonstrate a secured interest in the property must obtain the required permits from the Department of Safety and Inspections. Any excess flow valve model must be approved and installed as required by the Department of Safety and Inspections.

(e) The procedures in paragraph (d) above may not be followed under the following conditions:

(1) If the enforcement officer determines that failure to install an excess flow valve constitutes an immediate danger or hazard which if not immediately addressed will endanger the health or safety of the public, the city may proceed with an emergency abatement under the provisions of Saint Paul Leg. Code § 45.12.

(2) The owner or another who can demonstrate a secured interest in the property shall be exempt from the requirements of subdivision (d) above if the following conditions are met:

(i) The owner or another who can demonstrate a secured interest in the property has registered the building as a vacant building with the enforcement officer; and

(ii) After registration, the owner or another who can demonstrate a secured interest in the property has received or ordered a code compliance inspection and has shut off gas service and winterized the property.