Engineering

NATURAL GAS AND SCHOOL SAFETY FACT SHEET

- 1. Protecting schools is essential: they are filled with the most vulnerable members of society (children).
- 2. Gas systems at schools are complex; many k-12 and college facilities personnel simply do not know where manual shut-off valves are. In an emergency, chances of finding them are slim.
- 3. School staff are often simply uninformed about how to spot gas dangers.
- 4. There are approximately 20,000 K-12 public and private schools in California. Several thousand have infrastructures that predate modern gas safety standards.
- 5. Besides being outdated, internal and external corrosion or oxidation, valves begin to stick, unions wear from movement, and regulators wear out.
- 6. California averages about 3 natural gas fires every day not counting earthquakes.
- 7. Natural gas accounts for 25% of earthquake fires. Damage costs from fires following an earthquake exceed the damage from the earthquake itself. A seismic shut-off value stops gas flow during an earthquake.
- 8. It takes less than 3 minutes to fill a janitor's closet with gas from a leaking gas line.
- 9. Mercaptan, the additive in natural gas, isn't always potent enough to smell. MBS Engineering typically finds leaks schools and colleges didn't know they had, during a leak survey (using infrared, laser, and other state-of-the-art technologies).
- 10. Some plumbers are licensed to handle gas lines, or a seismic shut-off valve, but MBS Engineering work only with natural gas. The average plumber has installed 250 seismic valves over the last three years, MBS has installed 100,000.