



## Sometimes We Forget

As technicians, we do the same thing day-in-and-day-out without thinking about it. We install boilers, furnaces, water heaters and air conditioning systems and never give it a second thought. We go to homes that have no heat and make the necessary repairs to get the heat up and running. When was the last time you really thought about what you do?

When I first stated in the field, my biggest fear was putting my foot through someone's ceiling. Then, one day, a contractor told me about a time he got a call from the state inspector telling him he needed to get to a jobsite ASAP. The install crew had replaced a furnace earlier that day and the homeowner told them she smelled gas. They had just changed the furnace and some gas pipes, including the shut off, so they thought that was what she was smelling. She again told them she smelled gas a little bit later. They again told her that is was nothing to worry about, that they had done a leak test and didn't find any gas leaks.

After they left, she was still smelling gas, so she called the gas company and sure enough there was gas in the house. The diaphragm on the regulator at the meter had let go and was leaking. The meter was outside. However, the gas was coming back into the home through the basement window. The gas company told the young lady that she was lucky that she called when she did because the house was full of gas. When the supervisor arrived, he saw a lady holding her 6-week-old baby with a look of fear that he had never seen before and hopes to never see again. After hearing that story, I realized that putting my foot through a ceiling was no big deal. A ceiling can be fixed. A life cannot be replaced.

When was the last time you thought, "If I make a mistake, could it cost someone's life"? We work on products that create carbon monoxide. We work with gas that could explode. And, we work with flames near combustible materials that could smolder for hours before a fire breaks out. We all need to slow down and think about what we do and remember we take peoples lives in our hands every day.

Make sure you **read the manuals** and install the equipment accordingly. Install detectors **not only** when required, but also whenever possible, even if it's not required. Use your hand-held detectors every day. Use press fittings when working close to combustible material and set up the appliance with an analyzer when required to do so. If you don't have the tools required, call your local Supply New England branch and they will be happy to recommend a Fieldpiece tool that is right for you.