

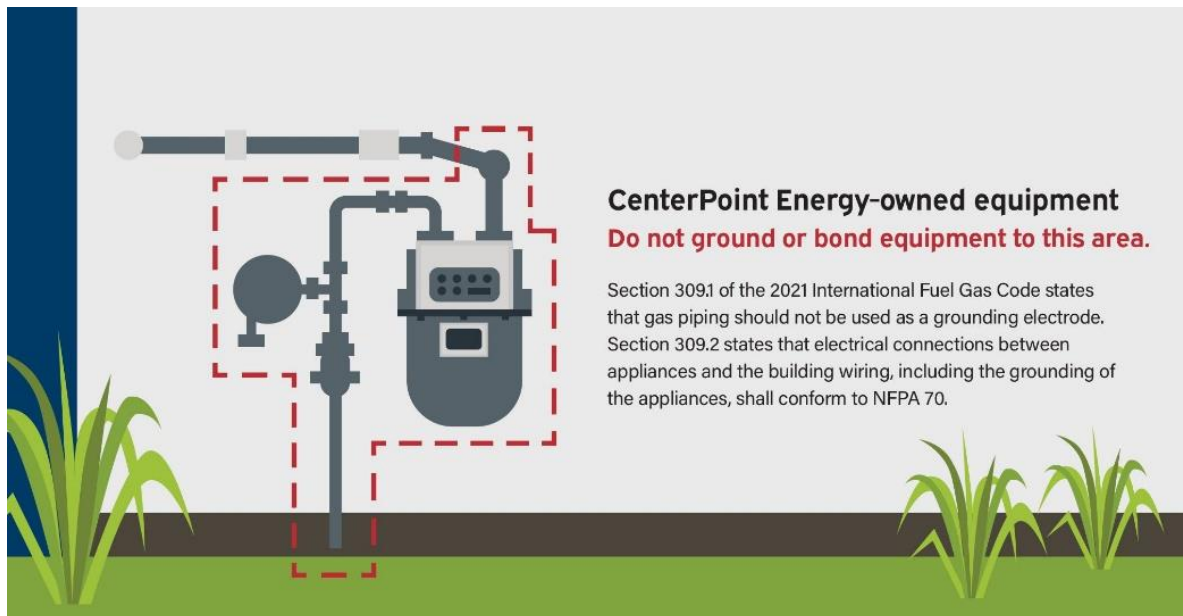
# Improper bonding and grounding to natural gas meters

At CenterPoint Energy, safety is our number one priority. We have identified an increase of improper grounding and bonding to natural gas meters and piping leading into or out of the meter. This situation is often related to the installation of end-use applications such as natural gas generators, solar panels and other customer-owned equipment. Per the International Fuel Gas Code, natural gas piping should not be used as a grounding electrode. Per the International Fuel Gas Code, natural gas piping should not be used as a grounding electrode.

## Bonding or grounding customer-owned equipment to natural gas pipes may:

- Cause piping to become energized, presenting a safety hazard.
- Result in the shut-off of the gas service.
- Negatively impact the cathodic protection system on steel distribution piping, increasing the potential for corrosion of the piping.
- Can cause an electrical short-circuiting of ultrasonic gas meters, causing the internal safety shutoff valve to become inoperable.

See the diagram below showing CenterPoint's equipment and where equipment should NOT be grounded or bonded to:



These safety hazards associated with improper bonding or grounding can result in life-threatening circumstances.

We encourage our contracting community to spread awareness about the dangers of improper bonding and grounding to natural gas meter sets and to take a moment to review the diagram to ensure that wiring is never connected in the areas shown in the diagram.