



PROPANE EXCHANGE

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www.wvpropanegas.org * 703.530-9772

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 22, 2010	Spring Membership Mtg. Marriott Hotel Charleston, WV
April 10-12, 2010	NPGA Southeastern Conv Atlanta, GA



Keep Your
Company Profitable
Despite Excessive
Snow and Tough
Economic Times

These have been challenging times; a continuing poor economy and now more than our share of snow. **You can use all the help you can to keep business profitable regardless of the size of your operation.**

That is why the program for the **Spring Membership Meeting** is designed to give you a variety of practical knowledge and techniques that you can take back and share with your company.

It all takes place on **March 22, 2010** at the **Marriott Hotel, 200 Lee Street, Charleston, WV**. A block of overnight rooms is available at a lower price before March 5th.

Lunch speakers include **Joe Cordill, Chairman of the National Propane Gas Association**, and **Sterling Lewis, State Fire Marshal**. This will be a timely way to find out about important Federal legislation effecting propane as well as learning about the upcoming propane installers certification requirements which take effect on July 1st.

Cost for the entire program is only \$50 but **there is a discount for those who register early**. All the info you need may be found by visiting www.wvpropanegas.org.



DOT Secretary Announces Ban on Texting for Commercial Truck Drivers

On January 26, 2010, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced federal guidance expressly prohibiting texting by interstate drivers of commercial motor vehicles, such as large trucks and buses.

The new prohibition on commercial drivers was effective immediately and is the latest in a series of steps taken by the Department to combat distracted driving.

The announcement updates the current guidance contained in 49 CFR 390.17 (Additional Equipment and Accessories), which now states: "Although the current safety regulations do not include an explicit prohibition against texting while driving by truck and bus drivers, the general restriction against the use of additional equipment and accessories that decrease the safety of operation of commercial motor vehicles applies to the use of electronic devices for texting."

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) research shows that drivers who text while driving are more than 20 times more likely to get in an accident than non-distracted drivers.

Because of the safety risks associated with the use of electronic devices while driving, FMCSA is also working on additional regulatory measures that will be announced in the coming months.

Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750. The DOT has also launched a new website, www.distraction.gov, where the public can locate information and resources on distracted driving.

The Spring Membership Meeting on March 22nd will feature this along with more about DOT's New CSA 2010 program (Compliance, Safety, Accountability) which will effect all motor carriers (or those who operate them in interstate commerce) and drivers. See page 1 for details about signing up for this and more helpful information or visit www.wvpropanegas.org.

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NEWS FROM NPGA

3 Reminders for NPGA's Southeastern Convention & Expo



Register to Attend the Atlanta Expo

The National Propane Gas Association's *Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo* will take place April 10 – 12, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Visit the official website at www.PropaneExpo.com to register online and preview details for the 2010 event.

Reserve Your Hotel Room in Atlanta

Special discounted hotel rates are available to participants of the *2010 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo*. Participants must contact the hotels directly to reserve accommodations and request the National Propane Gas Association group block.

The discounted group rates are available through **Friday, March 12, 2010** or until the room blocks sell out.

PERC Launches New Marketer Training Program in Atlanta

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) is launching new technology and training initiatives in 2010 that will debut at the NPGA *Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo*.

The PERC Marketer Technology Training Program is an educational curriculum that will be rolled out across the nation to help the industry understand and sell new propane technologies.

Attendees at the *2010 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo* will have the first look at this exciting new program that focuses on key applications PERC and its partners have brought to market, including ground-breaking products ready for commercialization and market development. The program will cover basic installation criteria, energy efficiency and environmental impact, consumer benefits, and implementation obstacles.

Visit www.PropaneExpo.com/PERC for complete details on the Marketer Technology Training Program and other PERC offerings at the *2010 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo*.

News Flash:

Thanks to all of you who sent in your dues membership renewals. It has given us the funds to continue to serve you this year.

If you have not renewed, take a moment to do so today. Payment may be made by check, Visa or MasterCard.

Don't forget:

Membership dues need to be paid to be eligible for the "Member" rate at the NPGA Southeastern Convention.



*Responding to
Propane
Emergencies
Training to be Held
In March*

WVPGA and PERC have combined resources to sponsor a “Responding to Propane Emergencies” training class for firefighters from around the state.

It will take place on March 13-14, 2010 at the Sissonville High School, Sissonville, WV. Classes run 8 am – 5 pm each day.

March 13, 2010 will feature *Propane Awareness* while March 14, 2010 will cover *Operations* along with a live burn.

Important note: Participants MUST have attended the Awareness Level class prior to taking the Operations session

Lunch and refreshments for students will be provided on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Class is limited to fifty (50) participants in the Awareness class and thirty (30) students in the Operations level.

The first day of class is designed to bring students to the Awareness Level with regard to responding to and dealing with emergencies involving propane gas in accordance with NFPA 58. The second day is designed to give Awareness level students, “live fire” experience in dealing with realistic scenarios that they may encounter involving propane. Safety is stressed and proper PPE is required.

These classes have been reviewed and approved by the West Virginia State Fire Commission.

To pre-register, visit <http://www.sissonvillefireschool.com>, and complete the pre-registration, or e-mail the name(s) and planned date of attendance to: tomfirerescue@msn.com.

Students who pre-register before March 1, 2010 receive a fire school T-Shirt. For additional information, please call Tom Miller at 304-590-3684.

Thanks to Southern States Cooperative for providing the gas for the live burn and to American Welding & Tank for the cutaway tank to be used.



Friendly Reminders...
...In Case You Forgot

ARE YOU GETTING HOURS OF SERVICE WAIVERS INFO?

Winter has come to West Virginia earlier than in past years. That means snow, sleet, freezing rain, and generally tough weather conditions to make deliveries.

When road conditions get tough and supply is tight, WVPGA works with state officials to obtain Hours of Service Waivers when warranted.

This information is emailed out to everyone for whom the Association has a working email address.

Don't be left out. Make sure we have you on our list. Send your email to sign up to wvpga@aol.com

NPGF Scholarship Accepting Applications!

The National Propane Gas Foundation (NPGF) Scholarship Fund program is in full swing!

The online scholarship application has been active for several months and the march is on towards awarding scholarships to qualified students for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Applicants must apply online via the NPGF Scholarship page at www.npga.org/scholarship.

The deadline for submittal of all completed applications and required information is **March 15, 2010**.

For more information about the process, please contact NPGA's Stuart McLean at 202-355-1328 or smclean@npga.org.

A list of the 2009-2010 winners is also posted on the NPGF Scholarship Fund web page.

Contact Us

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Parking and Garaging of LP-Gas Vehicles



Chapter 9 of NFPA 58, 2008 Edition sets forth the code requirements for parking and garaging of LP-Gas vehicles. These vehicles are your transport trucks, bobtails and trucks that transport cylinders for industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential use.

It is important to follow these guidelines to avoid potential accidents that can result in explosions or fires from leaking gas that finds an ignition source.

This Chapter of the Code discusses general safety precautions when parking these vehicles outside, as well as in a garage generally and specifically when performing service work on the vehicles.

When parking these vehicles outside you must always keep them 50 feet or more from ignition sources. You must also keep them away from places of public assembly, institutions or multi-apartment complexes. Essentially, the goal of the code is to keep these parked vehicles away from large groups of people. Obvious examples would be schools, churches, sports stadiums, etc.

The Code also requires that the driver stay with the vehicle when it is being used on any street, highway or alleyway. There are exceptions to this general rule found in the Code for meals, rest stops and emergencies.

There is also an exception in the Code to parking in uncongested areas. Emergencies and uncongested areas are not defined but obviously must be interpreted by a reasonable view of the facts available to the driver when in the field. Keep in

Static Electricity DVD, Field Evaluation Guide

The newly updated *Static Electricity in the Propane Industry*, a full-color 28-page booklet, comes with a new video on DVD that explains some of the more technical aspects of static electricity and its dangers.

The video includes footage that depicts static electrical hazards at a propane plant.

Other helpful resources in the booklet include a quiz you can use to gauge how well your employees understand the information in the guide, and a field evaluation guide you can use to identify static discharge hazards at your company's facilities.

Visit the Propane Marketing and Resource Catalog (the Propane MaRC) at www.propanemarc.com or call 866-905-1075 to order a copy of *Static Electricity in the Propane Industry* (catalog item 006400).

To order, email your request to wvpga@aol.com giving the shipping address (no P. O. Boxes) and quantity. You will be billed so no pre-payment is necessary.

mind that as with all parts of the Code the local authority having jurisdiction may impose more restrictive requirements than those set forth in the Code for outside parking and garage parking set out below.

When These Vehicles Are Brought Indoors

For "public garages" the Code requires that all LP-Gas be removed from cargo tank, piping, pump, meter, hoses and related equipment before it is brought indoors. Portable containers of LP-Gas need to be removed as well, before the vehicle is brought indoors.

If the vehicle is parked indoors and is not open to the public and is owned or under the control of the owner of the LP-Gas vehicle the garage must be built per the requirements of Chapter 10 of the Code. The vehicle must also be prepared in compliance with Section 9.7.3.5 of the Code. These requirements essentially seek to ensure that the vehicle is free of gas leaks and will be in a well ventilated, ignition free environment.

If the LP-Gas vehicle is brought indoors for service work the Code distinguishes between work on the "engine or chassis" and the gas delivery system. If work is being done on the cargo tank or delivery system then Section 9.7.3.7 requires that all gas be removed from the tank and entire gas delivery system before it is brought indoors.

If work is only being done on the engine or chassis then the cargo tank does not need to be emptied before it is brought indoors, but the gas lines used to deliver the gas do need to be bled down.

Another training piece that will reduce accidents when these vehicles are inside garages is to follow the static discharge manual recently prepared by PERC (*see info on left*) Although, it is impossible to eliminate static discharge as an ignition source this manual gives guidance on how to reduce this safety threat. Good luck and be safe!

This article was written by John V. McCoy, president of McCoy & Hofbauer S.C. He specializes in the representation of propane companies. He can be reached at 800-599-8300 or jmccoy@mh-law.us.