



PROPANE EXCHANGE

April 2011 * West Virginia Propane Gas Association

Check Out the Ad about the Propane Centennial Celebration at the end of this issue.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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| April 16- 18, 2011 | NPGA Southeastern Convention
Atlanta, GA |
| June 14-15, 2011 | Propane Days
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Washington, DC |
| June 20-21, 2011 | Summer Membership Mtg.
Bridgeport, WV |
| Sept 14-16, 2011 | Annual Meeting & Legal Symposium
Inn at Charles Town
Charles Town, WV |



ANOTHER BENEFIT

Propane Emergencies Training Grant Approved

PROPANE EMERGENCIES TRAINING GRANT APPROVED BY PERC

The Propane Education & Research Council approved a grant request from the West Virginia Propane Research & Education Foundation to provide Propane Emergencies Training.

The grant, administered by WVPGA, will go to training fire fighters, EMTs and first responders when handling a propane emergency.

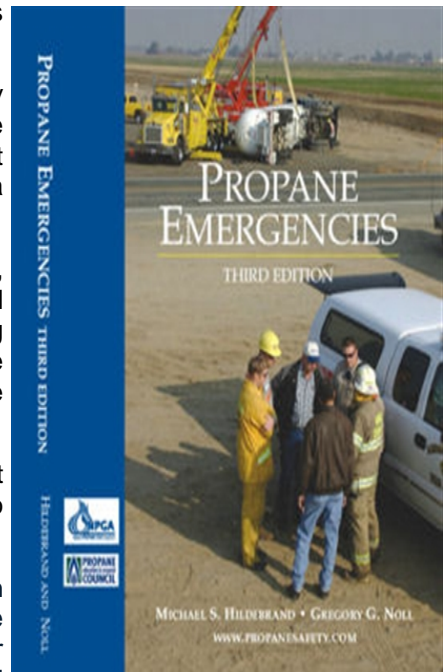
Under the terms of the grant, WVPGA will provide a certified instructor for classroom training and up to 50 copies of Propane Emergencies workbooks for the class.

Interested parties can visit www.wvpropanegas.org to complete an application.

For those marketers interested in doing their own training, get the Propane Emergencies Marketer Outreach Toolkit, a condensed version of the Propane Emergencies curriculum now available on CD/ DVD.

The toolkit helps trainers conduct a two to three-hour training session for emergency response personnel at a propane facility and develop a relationship between the propane industry and local firefighters.

Order item # 007200 for \$16 plus shipping and handling from the Association Office.



SURVEY: 9 of 10 Marketers Use PERC Safety & Training Materials

More than 90 percent of propane marketers use safety and training materials from the Propane Education & Research Council, according to a recent survey, and more than half of the respondents rely exclusively or almost exclusively on PERC programs for their training.

About 80 percent use CETP material in some form, and 65 percent use PERC safety brochures. How about you? Learn more about PERC safety and training resources at www.propanesafety.com

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New Version of Propane Database Available

The newly updated state-level Propane Database and Forecasting Model, an important source of market intelligence for research and development programs at the Propane Education & Research Council, can also help you identify propane marketing opportunities and evaluate the potential impact of propane usage trends and marketing programs on propane demand.

The Residential Housing Stock Module estimates the total size of the U.S. housing market, propane's competitive market share, and the propane of the housing market. Driving this module are trends in housing construction, natural gas market penetration, and market share loss caused by the wood market.



Fact Sheet on Latest Propane Innovations Published

A new fact sheet from PERC features a rundown of the latest advances in propane technology and industry initiatives established since the publication of the award-winning Propane Technology Review 2010.

Highlights include updates on commercialized products, products slated for release this year, and new products that are under development. To learn more about the most recent innovations and initiatives supported by PERC, check out the fact sheet.

It has just been confirmed that Carl Hughes, NPGA Chairman, will

NPGA Chairman to Speak at Annual Meeting & Legal Symposium



be speaking at the Legal Symposium & Annual Meeting being held on September 14-16, 2011 at the Inn at Charles Town.

In addition to his duties with NPGA, Mr. Hughes is Senior Vice President of Business Development for Inergy, L.P. He is a founding partner of the company and has spent 26 years in the propane industry.

Important Notice About Industry Decals



"...there is no deadline by which changes must be made to existing markings on propane containers.."

It has come to our attention that you and/or some of your members may have recently received a notice from a vendor that prints industry decals referring to recent NFPA changes related to the health hazard rating for propane. The notice states that the rating for propane went from "1" to "2" and that all decals must be replaced by June 30, 2011.

First, please be advised that NPGA has contacted this vendor and confirmed that the **June 30, 2011 deadline was erroneous**, and, in fact, is not tied to any law, regulation, code or standard. So, please disregard that date.

In addition, although the current edition of NFPA 704 (the standard within which this change occurs) utilizes criteria that specifies a health hazard rating of "2" for propane, **there is no deadline** by which changes must be made to existing markings on propane containers.



Let me also take this opportunity to provide some additional background on the actual change from "1" to "2" within NFPA 704 and clarify its applicability. NFPA 704 (*Standard System for the Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response*) is a standard whose purpose is to provide emergency responders with a simple, easily understood system of markings that provides a "general idea of the hazards of a material and the severity of these hazards..."

NFPA 704 is the standard upon which the familiar fire diamond symbol is based, which conveys health, flammable, instability and other hazards.

However, the NFPA 704 standard is actually not referenced, or incorporated by reference, in any federal regulation, most notably OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) contained in 29 CFR 1910.1200.

While the HCS does require that health and physical hazards of a hazardous chemical be communicated, it does not specify the manner in which this must occur, i.e. it does not state that it must appear in a diamond-shape or conform to NFPA 704 requirements.

The use of NFPA 704 is simply one method with which to comply with the HCS. Notably, markings on propane containers conforming to NFPA 704 are not required by either NFPA 58 or the International Fire Code.

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Important Notice About Industry Decals

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As to the specifics of the change from “1” to “2” (which actually occurred in 2001), it is worth noting that the physical properties of propane have not changed during this time.

The change to NFPA 704 resulted from the NFPA 704 Technical Committee revising the standard to include a class of materials (compressed liquefied gases) in Degree of Hazard 2, which are materials that under emergency conditions, can cause temporary incapacitation or residual injury.

Prior to the 2001 edition, there was no mention of compressed liquefied gases in NFPA 704, and therefore, it was not clearly stated what the degree of hazard rating for propane was. By convention, the industry chose to rate propane as “1” for health hazard.

NPGA has been working to address this issue through the code development process. Most recently, there was a proposal for the 2011 edition of NFPA 704 that would have assigned the number “3” to propane and other compressed liquefied gases that cause frostbite and irreversible tissue damage.



However, NPGA objected and the NFPA technical committee reversed itself and ultimately rejected the proposal, stating that it needed more time to review the reference material. NPGA intends to monitor this process closely to ensure that any further changes to the hazard ratings of propane are based on sound justification.

For propane marketers who are in need of new decals and inquire as to which fire diamond sequence to purchase, i.e. 2-4-0 or 1-4-0, they can purchase the decals with the 2-4-0 fire diamond sequence since that is what NFPA 704 currently specifies.

In the meantime, as noted previously, even with this change, we are not aware of any deadline by which changes must be made to existing markings on propane containers.

The fact that the change from “1” to “2” occurred in 2001 and no one had become aware of it over the years also suggests that NFPA 704 does not have the force of regulation.

Further, we are not aware of anyone who has been cited for a violation associated with these marking requirements in NFPA 704. Nevertheless, we would ask that you inform us if you do become aware of any citations based on using an incorrect NFPA fire diamond.

If you have any questions or need further information on this matter, please contact NPGA's Senior Technical Advisor, Bruce Swiecicki, at bswiecicki@npga.org.

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In 2012 the propane industry will celebrate the centennial anniversary of our exceptional fuel and its role in improving the lives and businesses of millions of people all over the world. Plans for a festive year to showcase the pride, integrity, and service that our industry is known for are underway. Program development will take place throughout 2011 with a launch at the NPGA Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo in April of 2012. Join us! To learn how to be part of this anniversary celebration, visit www.propane100.org.

Here's some of what's in store:

- New Centennial website: www.propane100.org
- Video commemorating our industry and history
- Celebrations at major industry events in 2012
- Press events to highlight propane's benefits

Propane Centennial Celebration

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