



PROPANE EXCHANGE

November 2012 * West Virginia Propane Gas Association

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13-15, 2013 NPGA Southeastern Convention
World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA



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Propane Marketers Handle Hurricane Sandy

HURRICAN SANDY PRESENTS UNEXPECTED CHALLENGE

STATE GETS EARLY SNOW The East Coast, particularly New Jersey and New York, got hit by a late season hurricane in October. Nicknamed “Frankenstorm,” Hurricane Sandy became a super storm due to a cold front moving toward the east while it brought warm tropical temps and moisture with it. A full moon creating greater than normal high tides added more punch.

While most of the damage was along the Atlantic Seaboard, heavy rain and snow fell in the eastern and central parts of West Virginia right where the warm tropical rain met the fast moving cold front. Parts of the state reported as much as 2 feet of snow.

ASSOCIATION HELPS MARKETERS In anticipation of this extreme weather, WVPGA helped marketers by obtaining a week-long hours of service waiver in conjunction with Governor Earl Ray Tomblin’s declaration of a State of Emergency.

WVPGA members also received an email with links to download propane consumer safety brochures for hurricane and flooding safety information. These items are designed to be either emailed to customers or printed and given out.

To help the propane industry through the challenging weather, WVPGA utilized its Facebook and Twitter accounts by posting daily updates about road conditions, announcements from the Governor’s office and information from the state emergency management department.

GET READY FOR WINTER October’s storm was a dress rehearsal for this winter. Make sure you are prepared by downloading the propane customer safety info on *Winter Safety* as well as the Winter 2011 issue of *Think Safety* entitled “Operating in Winter Weather” all at www.wvpropanegas.org



Use These Training Programs

Apply Now for 2013-2014 NPGF Scholarships!

The National Propane Gas Foundation (NPGF) Scholarship Fund aims to foster educational opportunities for the children of NPGA member companies by offering scholarships to colleges or vocational/technical schools. The fund provides nonrenewable scholarships in the amounts of \$1,000-\$2,000.

The fund awarded \$105,000 in scholarships to 71 individuals for the 2012-2013 academic year. Visit the NPGA website for complete details and to apply online. Completed applications and all required supporting documents must be received by March 1, 2013.

For more information contact NPGF's Scholarship Foundation Manager, Joanne Casey (jcasey@npga.org).

West Virginia Propane Gas Association
107 S. West Street, #825
Alexandria, VA 22314
Toll free: 888-441-5454
Telephone: 703-530-9772
Fax: 703-530-9653
wvpga@aol.com
www.wvpropanegas.org



New Propane Autogas Safety Program Available

A new safety program on propane autogas is available for fleet managers and emergency responders. The program from the Propane Education & Research Council comes in two-parts — a 12-page booklet and an extensive PowerPoint presentation that can be shown to responders, fleets, school leaders, and community groups. Both parts are free and available for download from PERC's website. The entire program will soon be available on the Propane Marketing and Resource Catalog.

The "**Propane Autogas: A Safe, Economical, and Environmentally Friendly Option for Fleet Vehicles**" booklet is an educational and marketing tool that spells out the fuel's safe, green, and economic benefits. This booklet will work for marketers seeking to explain the safe and effective use of propane autogas to customers.

The "**Propane Autogas: Resources**" PowerPoint is a four-part presentation tool with sections devoted to specific user communities, including responders, fleet operators, school boards, and community groups. It covers autogas benefits, successful fleet initiatives, and responder training, and concludes with a handy resources section. The PowerPoint will work for representatives of the propane industry and its partners as they seek to present an in-depth understanding of the fuel.

E-Learning Safety Programs Now More Convenient & Accessible

Six e-learning safety programs from the Propane Education & Research Council have been updated to conform to 2012 NFPA 54 and 2011 NFPA 58 and are available on interactive computer-based DVDs. Each can be ordered for \$22 through the WVPGA Office at wvpga@aol.com

Get all six e-learning programs:

- * Basic Principles & Practices of Propane.
- * Propane Delivery Operations and Cylinder Delivery.
- * Bobtail Delivery Operations.
- * Designing and Installing Propane Vapor Distribution Systems.
- * Placing Vapor Distribution Systems and Appliances into Operation.
- * Initial OSHA & DOT First 90-Day Employee Hazmat Training.

Each DVD includes course work, interactive learning activities, quizzes, and a comprehensive pre-certification review at the end of the program.

Companies are no longer required to register and activate each of the programs, making it more convenient than ever to participate. The e-learning DVDs can be used as a stand-alone training item or coupled with traditional classroom instruction. To order any of the new e-learning programs, contact the WVPGA Office at wvpga@aol.com

Crane Rule Discussed with Government Officials



NPGA AND OSHA MEET REGARDING CRANE RULE

On October 25, 2012 NPGA staff met with OSHA to discuss the Crane Rule and the negative impact it will have on the propane industry. NPGA outlined the cost benefit analysis, possible ways to alter the rule to exempt the propane industry, and finally, the material delivery exclusion.

OSHA was not moved by the cost benefit analysis, and while the information would be compelling to a third party bystander, OSHA maintained that their completed analysis was adequate. OSHA was equally closed to the idea of altering the rule. They were not willing to reopen the rule for any reason.

NPGA had the most success arguing that the delivery of a propane tank fell under the material delivery exclusion which already exists in the rule.

"OSHA maintained that their completed analysis was adequate. OSHA was equally closed to the idea of altering the rule."



NPGA provided a thorough description of the delivery of a propane tank, and matched it to the requirements of the rule.

NPGA also specified that construction activities, such as laying pipe and hooking up the tank to the piping were a separate activity.

OSHA could not commit to an answer, and we did not expect them to, but they did state that the argument had "merit". OSHA explained the only way to get a firm answer was to file a formal letter requesting an interpretation.

This meeting in and of itself should be regarded as a success since it opened up a new route that could lead to a positive end result. NPGA will continue to work with OSHA and prepare for other opportunities to "fix" this regulation.

For further information, please contact Robert F. Helminiak, Director, Regulatory Affairs at rhelminiak@npga.org or 202.355.1321.



Ralph Rooney
Suburban Gas Inc.
Past NPGA President

"We were confident that ThompsonGas would be able to provide a level of service and attention to detail commensurate with ours, and at the same time because of their size and corporate culture, would provide our employees and customers the security of a promising future, stability of supply, a broad mix of propane equipment, and a "down home" place to work and do business ... It provided us tremendous peace of mind."

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J. Randall Thompson

President &
Chief Executive Officer
301-432-3880
rthomp1@thompsongas.com

G. Jeffrey Kerns

Executive Vice President &
Chief Financial Officer
301-432-3882
jeff@thompsongas.com

WWW.THOMPSONGAS.COM

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