

safety signals

SAFETY NEWS // TIPS // SUCCESSES

Easy as one, two, three

TAKE THE NEEDED STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY

Safety is a critical priority in the propane industry all year long. Make sure your safety program has all of the necessary elements to protect your company, your employees and your customers.

▶ THREE-STEP SAFETY CHECKLIST FROM P3 PROPANE SAFETY

☑ Create and update a policies-and-procedures manual

The procedures manual is a collection of individual task procedures that form the basic guiding document for the consistent completion of core responsibilities. The scope of written policies includes language to cover legal issues, customer and employee health and welfare, and/or ethical concerns. When policies and procedures are written, they may be communicated during orientation and regularly reviewed and updated. Your policies-and-

procedures manual can help improve your company's efficiency, prevent errors and conditions of conflict, and protect your company's assets.

☑ Have a system for maintaining industry compliance

Did you know that the average safety inspection of a two-appliance gas system has over 50 fields that need to be audited for accuracy and completion? Propane marketers aren't just responsible for accurately completing these forms; they are also required to place containers correctly, requalify Department of Transportation (DOT) cylinders, provide cathodic inspections, replace regulators, perform and document operating system tests (like leak checks) and more. If you don't have an organized system to keep up with these processes, you won't be compliant.

☑ Stay compliant with employee training requirements

To identify specific individuals and areas that need training, evaluate documentation completed by your team. Is there an employee struggling with flow and lockup documentation? Are regulator date codes being documented properly? Propane marketers must comply with DOT Hazmat, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and additional state and local training regulations. Understanding your training requirements and personnel performance will help to create a training plan that achieves safety compliance. **LPG**

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SAFETY WATCH

Ray Collins, the propane safety director at Sapp Bros. Petroleum in Omaha, Nebraska, shared two of the biggest safety issues that his company notices in the field.

- People don't always vent regulators away from ignition sources. Plumbers stub out near the AC unit, and we must have the regulator at least 5 ft. away or use a vent away to meet code.
- We've found a lot of tanks too close to structures. You can't have that. It's not good for your first responders. NFPA 58 says tanks larger than 125 gallons must be 10 ft. away from an important building or structure.

THEY SAID IT

"Safety is always paramount. First and foremost, we don't do any filling at customer locations in our forklift cylinder exchange business. Everything is done in a controlled environment in our plant. So, we fill the cylinders at our location and we bring them to the customer for exchange."

MIKE GIOFFRE
American Cylinder Exchange

"We ask ourselves 'Do we have the right equipment to handle this job safely?'"

SINA ZAREI
Vacherie Fuel

"We have a safety director. He takes care of all our safety and he creates safety meetings each month. We bring everyone together in the morning and talk about what may come up in the field and we focus on that for the month."

TOMMY BUSBEE
Evergreen Propane

"Safety is very important. We try to do a lot of training for our employees on an annual basis. We also try to provide a lot of information for our customers on safety and what to do if they have a problem."

JOE BONADIO
PA Propane Gas