

safety signals

SAFETY NEWS // TIPS // SUCCESSES

Securing DOT security plans

In the propane business, there are many requirements to track. A written Department of Transportation (DOT) security plan is one that you can meet easily by following the right steps.

Q: What is a DOT security plan?

A: A DOT security plan is a written document that outlines what steps should be taken in the event of a security breach. It identifies relevant scenarios and serves as a guiding document to train employees so that they are prepared to take action. A DOT security plan will also help your company evaluate security risks and prevent unauthorized access.

Q: Are all propane companies required to have a DOT security plan?

A: According to the DOT Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR 172.802), companies that operate propane cargo tank motor vehicles with a water capacity greater than 792 gallons (like a bobtail) must have a written security plan to meet specific DOT regulations. Most propane companies fall under this category and, therefore, are required to have a written security plan.

Q: What are the training requirements for DOT security plans?

A: All employees who perform tasks subject to hazardous materials regulations are required to complete DOT hazmat training as well as in-depth written security plan training. Any employee who is responsible for implementing any part of the security plan must also receive training, including customer service representatives, delivery drivers, service technicians and any other company personnel depending on your company's written security plan.

Q: Is training for DOT security plans a one-time thing?

A: No. DOT security plan training must be completed at least every three years or within 90 days after any revisions are made to your plan.

Q: I have a written DOT security plan, so am I all set?

A: Nice job. Having a written DOT security plan in place is the first step in meeting your requirement. However, DOT security plans must be reviewed at least once per year and should be revised and updated as necessary to reflect changing circumstances at your company.

Having a written plan is crucial to meeting important DOT requirements. Your security plan will help to promote a safe work environment, avoid costly fines and protect your company from risk or litigation. **LPG**



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NOTE: The opinions and viewpoints expressed herein are solely the author's and should in no way be interpreted as those of LP Gas magazine or any of its staff members.

THEY SAID IT

"We've taken a strong approach on safety to the point we've adopted a safety board at our office. We invite our insurance company to sit on the board as well. Our board consists of not just management but also hourly employees, and we take on different scenarios and situations that happen on a monthly basis."

LENNY HALL, vice president of propane operations, Berico Fuels, Greensboro, North Carolina



Hall

RECALL NOTICE

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS RECALLS PORTABLE PROPANE HEATERS FOR REPAIR

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a recall notice for about 19,000 Bauer forced-air portable propane heaters. The fitting at the back of the heater may fail to be sufficiently tight, causing the heater to leak propane gas and posing a fire hazard. As of mid-September, the CPSC had received 13 reports of propane gas leaking, including one report of a fire. No injuries had been reported.

The portable propane heaters are red and measure 13 in. long, 9 in. high and 17 in. wide. The name "Bauer" is printed on the side of the heater in white letters. The heater has item number 57176 printed on the ratings label at the rear of the unit, located next to the gas inlet.

The units were sold at Harbor Freight Tools stores nationwide and online at harborfreight.com from November 2020 until March 5, 2021, for about \$100.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled portable propane heaters and inspect the heaters with a soapy water leak test, per instructions from Harbor Freight Tools, to determine that the fitting at the back of the unit is not leaking. Harbor Freight Tools is contacting all known purchasers directly with updated instructions for use and detailed instructions on how to inspect and tighten the fittings on the heaters if necessary, using the wrench supplied with the product.

If leaks persist after self-inspection and appropriate tightening as needed, consumers should contact Harbor Freight Tools for more information.