

Build regular safety meetings into your team's schedule

When it comes to running a propane business, safety training is one of the highest priorities.

And if each member of your team is onboarded with proper training requirements, you're off to a great start. But what about your ongoing safety training and management program?

Safety training doesn't end with Certified Employee Training Program certification. In fact, the training and companywide communication are essential to maintain compliance with the Department of Transportation, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and state regulatory requirements.

That's why propane safety experts recommend propane companies hold monthly or quarterly safety meetings to stay compliant and support employee performance.

Tip 1: Set up your calendar. If you can work it into your operations, a safety meeting every month is recommended. This gives management and service staff a chance to get together to review materials, answer questions and make sure everyone is on the same page. If monthly meetings aren't feasible, quarterly meetings are a good alternative.

Tip 2: Choose meeting topics. Use the time of year, relevant training requirements and any needed refresher training to choose a topic for each month or quarter. Planning these topics in advance will help you stay organized

throughout the year.

Tip 3: Collect and/or create meeting materials. You'll want to have materials for each topic ready for your team to review together. Additionally, a quiz or interactive discussion will allow employees to participate in the meeting and provide management with quantitative results to evaluate their proficiency and identify areas that need improvement.

Tip 4: Refresh your plan annually. When you approach the end of your training calendar, prepare to refresh your plan for the following year.

Use the time of year, relevant training requirements and any needed refresher training to choose a meeting topic.

You can look back and determine which topics were most successful, if there were topics you didn't get to, or if you have new needs based on upcoming training or refresher requirements.

Having a regular safety meeting in place, monthly or quarterly, will support employees to maintain and improve their skills, give management valuable insight into overall performance, and help your company efficiently meet and maintain code requirements. **LPG**

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CPSC: SEVERE WEATHER HEIGHTENS RISK OF CO POISONING

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning consumers in the path of severe weather to protect themselves against carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and fires.

According to CPSC, consumers need to be especially careful during a loss of electrical power, when many people use portable generators to produce power and heat. CO poisoning from portable generators can happen so quickly that exposed persons may become unconscious before recognizing the symptoms of nausea, dizziness or weakness, according to CPSC. The commission estimates more than 80 consumers die each year from CO poisoning caused by portable generators.

Safety tips: Portable generators

The CPSC provides the following recommendations for using a generator safely during power loss:

- Operate portable generators outside only, at least 20 ft. away from the house, and direct the generator's exhaust away from the home and any other buildings that someone could enter.
- Never operate a portable generator inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, shed or on the porch. Opening doors or windows will not provide enough ventilation to prevent the buildup of lethal levels of CO.
- Check that portable generators have had proper maintenance, and read and follow the labels, instructions and warnings on the generator and in the owner's manual.
- CPSC urges consumers purchasing a portable generator to look for and ask retailers for a model equipped with a safety feature that shuts the generator off automatically when high CO concentrations are present around the unit. These models may or may not be advertised as certified to the latest safety standards for portable generators: PGMA G300-2018 and UL 2201.