

# Propane Safety Meeting

## Subject: Parking Propane Cargo Vehicles Indoors

Periodically, all propane cargo vehicles will need maintenance, repair or servicing of some type. It may include regular items such as oil changes, engine and chassis lubrication, service or tire changes, tank and truck inspections, and from time to time repair to the truck undercarriage, truck body, drive train, or cab glass. Regardless of the type of maintenance or repair it will require that it be sent to a public garage or qualified repair facility. For the safety of the public, the repair facility and those who work on the truck, certain preparations shall be made before releasing the truck to the garage or repair facility.

These advance preparations including the following:

- All liquid propane shall be removed from the cargo tank, piping, pump, meter, hoses, and any related equipment. The pressure within the tank and entire delivery system shall be reduced to approximately atmospheric. If no measures beyond this are done, then the driver or qualified person representing the LP operator shall be in direct attendance with the truck during the entire time that the truck is indoors. "Qualified person" means someone who is knowledgeable of propane and the operation of the truck and is able to respond to any abnormal development with the propane system and apply whatever emergency measures are required to ensure proper safety.
- Additionally, all leaks to the propane system shall be repaired.
- All primary shut off valves shall be closed.
- All portable propane containers installed on the truck, not used for engine fuel, shall be shut off.
- Hoses used for delivery shall be plugged or capped.
- The truck or other containers shall not be located near blower or radiant type heaters. Directly applied heat may cause a rise in pressure and an unanticipated release of vapor to an ignition source.
- If the necessary work to be done involves the cargo tank system the entire system is to be thoroughly purged of propane before being brought indoors.
- If the truck to be serviced is used in delivering portable containers or exchange cylinders then all such containers or cylinders shall be removed before bringing the truck indoors.

The history of the propane industry has shown that some of the most devastating and deadly incidents have involved propane tank vehicles that were brought indoors for repair or service without regard to proper safe guards to insure safety. Don't let your company be involved in such an incident.

### Questions for thought and discussion:

1. Where are the company delivery trucks taken for general service and maintenance?
2. Have we been methodical about truck preparation when taking them indoors?
3. Have we ever discussed the importance of keeping our delivery trucks out of the air stream of overhead or wall heaters while parked indoors?
4. Do we have any written company policies on this point of safety?
5. Where are our trucks taken for propane system repair or inspection?

Reference: NFPA 58 9.7.3.1, 9.7.3.6 aff. 2004 Edition



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