



PROPANE EXCHANGE

June 2009 * West Virginia Propane Gas Assn.

www.wvpropanegas.org * 703.530-9772

Thanks to this issue's advertiser:

LPG Ventures

In This Issue

- *Fire Commission Makes Recommendations*
- *Propane and the Pickens Plan*
- *CETP Schools for Summer are Set*
- *Inspecting Cylinders: A Checklist*
- *Recognizing Warning Flags of Worker's Comp Fraud*

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 23-24, 2009	Summer Membership Mtg Stonewall Resort Roanoke, WV
July 17, 2009	GAS Check Bridgeport, WV
July 20-23, 2009	Basic & Vapor Install Beckley, WV
Sept 14-15, 2009	Fall Annual Meeting Lakeview Resort Morgantown, WV

Fire Commission Makes Propane Recommendations

Response to HB 2968

Faced with a July 1, 2009 deadline, the State Fire Commission has proposed rules for the installation of propane gas systems and training and qualification standards for those making the installations.

WVPGA Lobbyist Rudy Seacrist reports that the Commission adopted language from HB 2968 as its recommended training standard which reads, "*Standard safe practices for the design, construction, location, installation, maintenance and operation of liquefied petroleum gas systems, as established by the National Fire Protection Association Standard 58; and Training standards and qualifications for persons who install or maintain liquefied petroleum gas systems as established by the National Propane Gas Association's Certified Employee Training Program.*"

In conversations with the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Homeland Security, WVPGA's Task Force dealing with this matter has urged that the training standard be met with the taking and successful passing of CETP's Basic Principles & Practices 1.0 module and Vapor Installation 4.2.

Seacrist said the Fire Commission's recommendations now go to the State Legislature during its Interim Legislative session. Here it will be reviewed by legislative committees, Seacrist added, and may be accepted, rejected or modified.

The final step will be putting the recommendations into a bill for the 2010 Legislative Session which will be voted upon and, if passed, sent to Governor Manchin for his signature. The tentative effective date for mandatory training could be sometime in 2010.

News Flash:

Forecast: Winter Propane Prices Lower Than Electricity Prices

Propane is expected to maintain a distinct price advantage over electricity in all regions of the United States this winter, according to the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration.

Released June 9, 2009, the agency's *Short-Term Energy Outlook* projects fuel costs and inventories for propane, electricity, fuel oil, and natural gas. According to the forecast, propane will cost **40 percent less** than electricity on average during the second half of 2009.

Based on forecast prices from July through December, residential propane prices will average \$21.44 per million British thermal units, or \$1.96 per gallon. Electricity will average \$35.62 for the equivalent amount of energy.

The price disparity is greatest in the Northeast, where the price of propane is expected to be half the price of electricity. Fuel oil has an average forecasted residential price of \$18.08 per million BTU; for natural gas, it's \$11.95.

More details about the *Short-Term Energy Outlook* can be found at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>.

NEWS FROM PERC



Propane and the *Pickens Plan* for Energy Independence

Earlier this month, attendees of Propane Days in Washington, D.C., met T. Boone Pickens and heard more about his vision for the future of energy and the environment in the United States. For nearly a year, Pickens has been traveling the country, talking to people about his Pickens Plan and the need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil while helping the environment.

At Propane Days, Mr. Pickens and PERC President and CEO Roy Willis announced a new partnership that will highlight propane as part of the Pickens Plan.



To help learn more, several important documents were uploaded to the Propane MaRC.

Contact My Marketing Assistant at 866-907-1885 or mymarketingassistant@collemcvoy.com for more information. Check out <http://www.propane.com> and <http://www.pickensplan.com>.

CETP Schools Set for Summer



More Educational Opportunities Coming Up

*Save these dates for CETP
schools:*

July 17, 2009

Bridgeport, WV

July 20-23, 2009

Beckley, WV

Plans are underway to offer Certified Employee Training classes this summer.

Basic Principles classes just concluded in mid-June at the Days Inn, Bridgeport, WV.

But more classes are coming up:

GAS Check will be offered July 17, 2009 at the Days Inn in Bridgeport.

A third set of classes will be offered the week of July 20-23, 2009. Subjects taught then will be Basic Principles & Practices 1.0 and Bobtail Delivery 2.1/2.2. The meeting site is the Sleep Inn in Beaver (Beckley) adjacent to I-64.

Other classes will be offered based on interest and demand. So, if you want a specific class, drop a note to the Association Office via email using wvpga@aol.com

Meanwhile, visit www.wvpropanegas.org to obtain registration forms.

Inspecting Cylinders: A Checklist



Inspecting Cylinders

Propane is a safe fuel. To help keep it that way, inspect propane cylinders at several points during the propane delivery process to make sure they are in good condition for continued service.

When to Inspect a Cylinder

- Before filling a cylinder with propane.
- Before loading a cylinder on a delivery vehicle or before it leaves the bulk plant.
- When new cylinders are first received at the bulk plant.

What to Look For

- Cracks or leaks.
- Bulging.
- Serious denting or gouging.
- Defective valves.
- Damaged or leaking pressure relief valves.
- Damage to the cylinder valve, valve protection, or cylinder foot rings.
- Evidence of physical abuse, fire or heat damage, or excessive rusting or corrosion.

If any of these problems are found, the cylinder must not be refilled or transported until it has been repaired or requalified as required by federal regulations.

Steel cylinders subject to corrosion must be requalified, reconditioned, or repaired. Repairs must be performed by the original manufacturer or an authorized repair facility. Aluminum cylinders subjected to fire must be permanently removed from service.

“If you suspect a fraudulent claim, contact your insurer's special investigation crimes unit immediately. ”



Recognizing the Warning Flags of Worker's Comp Fraud

Here are two critical questions: How often are workers' compensation claims filed against your company? And how often do you contest them?

The answers are important. The National Council on Compensation Insurance recently estimated that 25 to 33 percent of all workers' compensation claims are invalid, yet less than 10 percent of these claims are challenged. The U.S. Department of Labor calls it a crisis and says that for most companies, workers' compensation is growing faster than any other expense. The estimated cost of an average claim is at least \$34,000.

The expenses add up quickly. Among the direct costs for both privately-insured and self-insured employers are medical expenses, payments for lost time, claims expenses, fees - including those paid to your state Workers' Compensation Commission - and other insurance costs. Indirect expenses include hiring temporary labor, increasing overtime to compensate for an absent employee, replacement training and reduced productivity.

Workers' compensation coverage is legally mandated in most states. Generally, fraud occurs when an employee:

- Makes false or misleading statements to receive money or services.
- Knowingly receives benefits he or she isn't entitled to.
- Enters into a conspiracy to defraud an insurance company, state insurance fund or self-insured employer under the *Workers' Compensation Act*.

The scams are pervasive, ranging from faking a back problem to passing off a weekend sports injury as a workplace accident on Monday morning.

Fortunately, **there are some red flags that can suggest fraud** is in the works. For example:

- The injured employee isn't home or is said to be sleeping and can't be disturbed.
- There is a lack of witnesses to the reported accident. Or the employee can't recall specific details of the injury.
- The accident occurs just before a strike, layoff, plant closing or job termination.

- The employee moves out of the state or country shortly after filing a claim.
- There are conflicts between what the employee reports and the initial medical evaluation.
- The employee refuses or continually delays undergoing diagnostic procedures to confirm the injury.
- The injury is inconsistent with the nature of the work or business.

So what can you do? Take precautions to combat fraud. For example, publicize your workers' compensation policy to all employees and educate supervisors on the issues. Explain how injuries decrease productivity and how costs affect the bottom line. Make your workplace as safe as possible. And pay attention to employee complaints and concerns. One strong predictor of fraud is a chronically disgruntled workforce.

Finally, if you suspect a fraudulent claim, contact your insurer's special investigation crimes unit immediately.

While preventing fraud involves training, education, safety and communication, the major factor is getting injured employees back on the job as soon as possible. This helps control many of the costs of paying out unnecessary compensation.

Source: *Netpay*, Mechanicsville, PA

Contact Us

wvpga@aol.com

www.wvpropanegas.com

703.530.9772



Plant Construction



Pre-cast Piers



VENTURES



Tank Sales

TANKS FOR SALE

LP413 - 2-61,000gal ACF Industries, 250psi, 1974, UG service Bridgeport, CT

LP496 - 3-64,000gal Chicago Bridge & Iron, ASME Port Arthur, TX

LP412 - 26-30,000gal ACF Industries, 250psi, 1960, UG Trumbull, CT

LP494 - 1-26,950gal Chicago Bridge & Iron, 210psi Jones Chappell, AL

LP509 - 12,000gal Trinity Industries 250psi, 1965 Dixon Mills, AL

LP488 - 2-10,000gal Mississippi Tank Co, 250psi, 1955 Amory, MS

Hall - 17,700gal Bethlehem Steel, 250 psi 1954, Jensen Beach, FL

888.739.8764

www.lpgventures.com