

TOOL BOX TALKS

Forklift Propane Handling

Propane is liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). LPG is a flammable liquid and the vapors can be easily ignited. Propane is heavier than air. When released into the atmosphere, it will flow along the ground in an invisible pool, and will tend to collect in low spots forming invisible puddles, especially in unventilated areas. Propane is -44 degrees Fahrenheit in the liquid state. The liquid can cause a severe freeze burn if it comes in contact with your skin.

WORKSAFE TIPS

CHECK THE PROPANE CYLINDER FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ **Valve Guard:** If the valve guard is bent or damaged and it blocks the valve connection to the tank, don't fill it, remove it from service.
- ✓ **Foot Ring:** If the foot-ring at the bottom of the cylinder is severely damaged or bent and will not support the cylinder in a standing position, or the rails on the horizontal tank are damaged, do not fill the tank and remove it from service.
- ✓ **Rust:** Normal wear and tear produces light surface rust on cylinders. Isolated pitting or a line of corrosion can develop on the bottom of the tank around the foot-ring. This corrosion can be dangerous and should be sanded and repainted. Severe rust damage weakens the integrity of the cylinder and it should be taken out of service.
- ✓ **Dents / Gouges:** Dents and gouges weaken the metal shell, causing stress on the deformed area. If there are any sharp or deep dents do not use the tank. Any tank with dents on or near welds should be removed from service.
- ✓ **Relief Valve:** This valve releases excess pressure in the propane cylinder and is equipped with a protective cap to keep the valve clean from water or debris. The relief valve must be replaced within 12 years of the date of manufacture of the container and every 10 years thereafter.

FORKLIFT CYLINDERS

- Smoking is not allowed during the forklift cylinder exchange or filling process.
- Wear gloves when handling cylinders.
- Wear eye protection.
- Remove the tank from the forklift.
- If the tank is left on the forklift during the filling process propane vapor will fill the engine compartment and the electrical system may set off an explosion, resulting in fire damage and injuries.
- If the forklift is driven away with the hose still connected, the hose will rupture releasing propane liquid uncontrollably or break the fill valve, service valve on the storage tank or the forklift tank.
- Never refill the tank on the forklift.

STORAGE AREAS / MOTHER TANKS

Keep ignition sources 10' away from cylinders. Keep the area free of combustible materials like rags, pallets, cardboard & trash. Refer to NFPA 58.

Storage tanks must be accessible for refilling. Do not block access to tank storage with pallets, boxes or containers.

Fire Extinguisher: Maintain fire extinguishers near all propane storage and refilling areas. Smoking is prohibited in these areas. No smoking signs must be posted. Welding and other hot work must not occur in this area until it is certain an accidental fire will not occur.

WorkSAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments



These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

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