SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

Forklift

Forklift Propane Handling

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.

CHECK THE CYLINDER PRIOR TO HANDLING

- **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.

TANK STORAGE AREAS

- **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.

Basic Steps for Propane Handling

- 1. Wear eye protection and insulated, loose fitting gloves such as leather (dry) or insulated neoprene.
- 2. Close the valve on the cylinder.
- 3. Run the engine until it stops. This ensures that the connection hose is empty.
- 4. Shut off the engine.
- 5. Open the connecting nut and inspect valves for leaking. Do NOT use metal tools.
- 6. Disconnect the hose.
- 7. Disconnect the holding straps.
- 8. Remove the empty cylinder.
- 9. Replace with a full cylinder in the proper position.
- 10. Connect the holding straps.
- 11. Tighten the connecting nut (wiggle hose).
- 12. Open the valve on the cylinder slowly and check for leaks. Use solution of soap and water. Smell listen look.
- 13. Open the valve fully (slowly).
- 14. Check that the hose is turned inward.
- 15. Secure the hose downward.
- 16. Secure the cylinder.
- 17. Start the engine and resume operation.

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