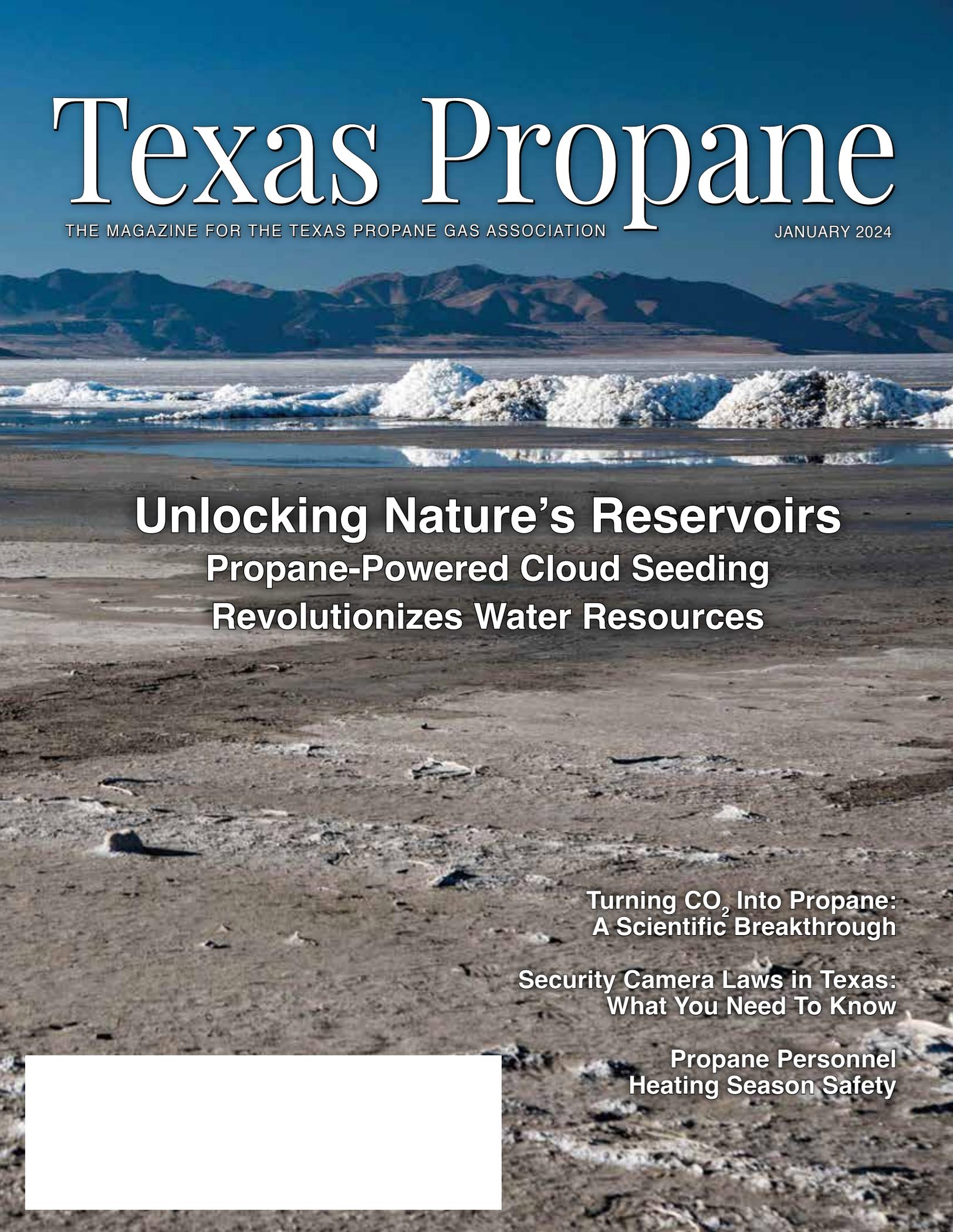


Texas Propane

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE TEXAS PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2024



Unlocking Nature's Reservoirs Propane-Powered Cloud Seeding Revolutionizes Water Resources

Turning CO₂ Into Propane:
A Scientific Breakthrough

Security Camera Laws in Texas:
What You Need To Know

Propane Personnel
Heating Season Safety



Trust the sale of your business to
experienced professionals with
proven results.



Legacy Energy Consulting has over 30 years of direct industry experience. Since forming our family-owned business in June of 2020, we have successfully completed over 15 sales nationwide. Please visit our website to view our services and success stories.

“Chad came on board and not only gave us great advice,, he did a deep dive into our business. Our business was a challenge because of the location and the remote area. His knowledge helped to ensure a smooth transaction with our buyer. I 100% can say with the utmost of honesty, that if Chad can sell our place, he can sell anyone’s place. He represented us fairly and sternly when needed. Chad is a class A person and has a class A plan for anyone he represents.”

Jimbo & Trisha Williams: Ag Country Propane, Quemado NM



chad@legacyenergyconsulting.com

763-772-2834

www.legacyenergyconsulting.com

Texas Propane

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE TEXAS PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS



14
WINTER WARRIORS
Propane delivery drivers are the unsung heroes of our industry.



17
RV SAFETY
Share propane RV safety tips with your Winter Texan customers.

FEATURES

- 8 UNLOCKING NATURE'S RESERVOIRS**
Propane-Powered Cloud Seeding Revolutionizes Water Resources
- 12 A BREAKTHROUGH IN PROPANE PRODUCTION: HOW SCIENCE IS CHANGING THE PROPANE GAME WITH CO₂ CONVERSION**
- 16 PROPANE PERSONNEL: GEARING UP FOR PEAK HEATING SEASON SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**
- 18 SECURITY CAMERA LAWS IN TEXAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW**
- 20 IN THE HEART OF TEXAS: PERC CHARTS A COURSE FOR 2024**
Several campaigns, initiatives and programs approved
- 22 NPGA ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS UNTIL FEBRUARY 15**

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Highlights from Headquarters**
- 6 TPGA Board of Directors**
- 26 Inside the Industry**
- 26 In Memoriam**
- 26 People in Propane**
- 28 Classified Advertising**
- 29 Calendar of Events**



Highlights from Headquarters

Bill Van Hoy
TPGA Executive Director

Happy new year! Our TPGA team wishes you all well and hope you were able to sneak in a little rest over the holidays as we dive into (hopefully) the beginning of our busy winter season.

No one wants a repeat of the massive ice and snow storms that we have lived through in the last three years, but cold weather would be okay.

This issue we touch on two technologies that show how propane is an important piece of the energy puzzle.

First, the cover story on cloud seeding is fascinating. The technology has come so far. Western states are using propane as part of their cloud seeding efforts, which generates snowfall. The enhanced snowpack provides water for their reservoirs throughout the year. It's an incredibly important mission as the entire world deals with bouts of water scarcity.

The second piece of technology (page 12) involves a scientific breakthrough by a team at the Illinois Institute of Technology. They developed a new method for producing propane from carbon dioxide (CO₂). The conversion of CO₂ into a usable item, like propane, holds much promise in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The work is in its early stages. They still need to study the cost, efficiency and scalability of the conversion process.

This winter, make sure to celebrate and appreciate the propane delivery drivers on your team. They are out there every day, rain or shine, snow or ice, getting the job done and taking care of your community.

Here's to a great 2024!

Texas Propane

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE TEXAS PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION

TPGA staff

Bill Van Hoy bvanhoy@txpropane.com
Executive Director

Jackie Mason..... jmason@txpropane.com
Education & Marketing Director
Regulatory & Sr. Legislative Affairs Director

Julie Novinger..... accountant@txpropane.com
Bookkeeper

Soo Teal.....
Propane Services Corporation Manager
Membership Initiatives & Meetings Manager

Propane Service Corporation

sales@propaneservicecorp.com
800-392-0023

Publisher

Kim Scheberle..... kscheberle@austin.rr.com
Account Manager/Managing Editor
Sail House Publishing
512-346-0892

Joanne Pantaze..... jpantaze@zochnet.com
Advertising Sales
512-273-2639

Kiki Pantaze kpantaze@zochnet.com
Art Director
512-924-7566

AFFINITY PARTNERS

Bays Processing
Lone Star Energy Group
NoCell Technologies

TPGA ★ Texas Propane
Gas Association

8408 North IH 35
Austin, TX 78753
512-836-8620 or 800-325-7427
512-834-0758 fax
E-mail: info@txpropane.com
www.txpropane.com



As we start a new year, we want to express our gratitude for supporting Metsa Tanks. Building trust takes time and we will continue to focus our efforts to build this trust and be the company you can rely on. Wishing you a fantastic New Year ahead; may it be prosperous and filled with happiness.

We are excited to work with you in 2024!



**New
Underground
Plastic
dome NOW
available**

Give us a call, we have the tank you need! / 1-800-609-TANK.

f @ Metsa Tanks sales@metsa.com

2023-2024 TPGA Board of Directors

President: Allen Wells, Wells Propane, 281-332-2630
President Elect: Larry Baty, Cadenhead Servis Gas, 972-771-8654
Secretary: Harris Baker, HBH Systems, 512-587-8347
Treasurer/Finance Chair: Bill Collins, Propane Exchange, 214-629-5118
District 1 Director: David Collett, Gas and Supply, 903-780-2488
District 1 Alternate: Open
District 2 Director: Matt Brock, McAdams Propane, 936-598-7444
District 2 Alternate: Open
District 3 Director: Open
District 3 Alternate: Open
District 4 Director: Danny Meyers, Bellville Butane 979-865-2698
District 4 Alternate: Matt Peterson, Buster Brown Propane, 281-689-3946
District 5 Director: Brody Newton, Busters Propane, 361-852-8161
District 5 Alternate: Open
District 6 Director: Omar Garcia, Mr. G Propane, 956-581-1063
District 6 Alternate: Alex Hinojosa, Hino Gas Sales, 956-423-9178
District 7 Director: Sharon Seal, Bell Hydrogas, 210-533-7103
District 7 Alternate: Open
District 8 Director: Rodney Sladek, Fayetteville Propane, 979-836-7044
District 8 Alternate: Open
District 9 Director: Brad Quisenberry, Gene Harris Petroleum, 817-295-1091
District 9 Alternate: Larry Hearn, Yellow Rose Propane, 870-648-8241
District 10 Director: Josh Nowlin, McCraw Propane, 9003-583-7481
District 10 Alternate: Chad Gregg, Enderby Gas, 940-482-3225
District 11 Director: Steve Adams, Hardwick LPG, 254-647-3402
District 11 Alternate: Open
District 12 Director: Laci Jo Stone, Schneider Distributing, 800-901-9109
District 12 Alternate: Open
District 13 Director: Lane Worthington, WTG Fuels, 432-682-4349

District 13 Alternate: Casey King, WTG Fuels, 432-894-4240
District 14 Director: Terry Perez, Perez Propane, 512-318-9780
District 14 Alternate: Open
District 15 Director: Don Heinrich, Slaton Gas, 806-828-6501
District 15 Alternate: Open
District 16 Director: Mark Garrison, Fred Garrison Oil, 806-296-6353
District 16 Alternate: Open
Past President: Josh McAdams, McAdams Propane, 936-598-7444
Past President: Mark Peterson, Buster Brown Propane, 281-689-3946
Past President: Jack Walzel, Tri-Co Propane, 254-642-3885
Past President: John Walter, Schneider Distributing, 800-901-9109
Past President: Ben Wood, Northwest Propane, 972-247-6121
Vice President: Steve Adams, Hardwick LPG, 254-647-3402
Vice President: Jeremy Gentile, Hill Butane, 409-296-2001
Vice President: Matt Terry, Matador Gas, 210-861-6545
Sr. Vice President: Todd Dorris, Roadrunner Energy, 830-278-2915
Sr. Vice President: Bill Collins, Collins Propane, 972-442-1078
Sr. Vice President: Joe Green, Green's Blue Flame Gas, 713-462-5414
Assoc. Supplier Service Director: Rusty Walker, Marshall Young 817-645 9155
Assoc. Supplier Service Alternate: Andy Brus, Crum & Forster 682-220-4812
Assoc. Producer/Marketing Gas Director: Jim Fulton, 4JEnergy 832-529-4768
Assoc. Producer/Marketing Gas Alternate: Open
Assoc. Manufacturer/Distributor Director: Joe Ezernack, Meeder Equipment, 903-877-9401
Assoc. Manufacturer/Distributor Alternate: Troy Hicks, Squibb Taylor 915-613-7534
Assoc. At Large Director: Crystelle Markley, Superior Energy Systems, 512-944-4177
Assoc. At Large Alternate: Jimmie Grant, Martin Gas Sales, 713-851-6155
Nominating Chair: Ben Wood, Northwest Propane, 972-247-6121
NPGA Director: Chad Gray, Dixie LP Gas, 254-582-5359

LPG Tank Equipment



MARSHALLEXCELSIOR

innovation made simple

**DOMESTIC TANKS · DOT FORKLIFT TRUCK TANKS · DOT & ASME CYLINDERS
ASME ABOVE GROUND & UNDER GROUND TANKS**



Meeder Equipment

12157 Massey Ave. • Tyler, Texas 75708 • Phone (903) 877-9401 • (866) 963-3337



Ronnie Kelley
(903) 360-1965
ronnie@meeder.com

Joe Ezernack
(903) 530-6954
joe@meeder.com

Ralph Flores
El Paso Area Sales
ralph@meeder.com

When Quality Matters.™

www.meeder.com



Protect Every Fleet Member, Every Mile.

35+ Years of Serving LPG Clients.



Don't risk your fleet to subpar coverage. As a trusted advisor in propane distribution insurance, Nixon & Lindstrom delivers excellent service to clients in the LPG industry. We're a third-generation, family-owned agency that understands how vital every decision is for your enterprise. Nixon & Lindstrom offers more:

- **Specialized propane distribution insurance.**
- **Coverage in all 50 states.**
- **Diverse carrier and coverage options.**
- **A team that speaks your language.**

Jared Ballard

Third Generation
Specialist

Visit us at www.nixonins.com
or call 800-238-8994.



UNLOCKING NATURE'S RESERVOIRS: Propane-Powered Cloud Seeding Revolutionizes Water Resources

In the relentless pursuit of harnessing nature's power to address water scarcity, scientists are turning to innovative methods such as cloud seeding, a technique dating back to World War II. While traditionally aimed at inducing rainfall, cloud seeding has evolved just a mere decades later and has been implemented in the last 50 years, with propane emerging as a key player, especially in generating snowfall for crucial snowpack enhancement. This article explores the groundbreaking role of propane in cloud seeding, particularly in the Western U.S., shedding light on its unique attributes and regional initiatives to address drought and water scarcity.





A manually-operated cloud nuclei generator (CNG) in the Salt Lake City area with the propane fuel next to it.

Cloud Seeding Methods: A Diverse Approach

Cloud seeding takes various forms, utilizing ground generators, planes, or rockets. In Texas, we employ planes with flares for rainfall in the summer months but in the Western U.S., ground-based propane generators are gaining prominence for their ability to create snow, crucial for bolstering snowpack. There are diverse strategies employed across states like California, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah, emphasizing the integral role of propane-powered ground generators in weather modification to increase water supplies for communities.

Propane's Pivotal Role in Fueling Cloud Seeding Operations

Across the Western U.S., cloud-seeding programs are advancing, with Utah standing out for its comprehensive weather modification initiatives. The state employs stationary propane-powered generators, funded by taxpayers and local governments, to enhance snowpack and combat water scarcity. Insights from the Utah Division of Water Resources provide a deeper understanding of the success of the state's cloud seeding initiatives.

Expanding on the methods used in Utah, ground-based generators fueled by propane play a crucial role in increasing snowfall and improving the snowpack. To delve into the intricacies of propane's role in cloud seeding, we turn to the expertise of Todd Flanagan, a seasoned meteorologist from North American Weather Consultants (NAWC). For more than 70 years, NAWC has delivered specialized expert consulta-

tion, conducted field operations, and engaged in climatological research to oversee and explore various aspects of meteorology. Mr. Flanagan provides a detailed breakdown of the cloud seeding process, shedding light on the vital role propane plays in this innovative technique.

In a cloud-seeding generator, a solution of acetone, silver iodide, sodium iodide, and paradichlorobenzene is combined. Acetone acts as a carrier, while silver iodide serves as nuclei for water vapor, crucial for ice crystal formation. Paradichlorobenzene and sodium iodide enhance silver iodide's water-attracting properties. This solution is injected into a propane flame, vaporizing it into nearly invisible particles.

Propane's singular role is to provide the flame, initiating the transformation. These particles, laden with silver iodide nuclei, are then dispersed by the wind into colder mountainous regions. In these clouds, the nuclei attract water vapor, kickstarting the growth of ice crystals that eventually become snowflakes. Propane, in essence, catalyzes the process by which nature produces much-needed snowfall in water-scarce regions.

In this context, propane is solely used for cloud seeding related to snow production, showcasing its versatility in addressing the specific needs of mountainous regions. The propane advantage lies not only in its effectiveness but also in its portability and ease of use, especially in remote mountainous areas where water resources are scarce. Flanagan states that the amount of propane used is carefully calibrated, taking into consideration factors such as desired snow accumulation levels and accessibility during winter months. Typically, propane tanks range in size from 120s to 250s to power these ground-based generators, being filled two to three times during the cloud seeding season that runs from November to April.

The propane advantage lies not only in its effectiveness but also in its portability and ease of use, especially in remote mountainous areas where water resources are scarce.

A remotely-operated cloud nuclei generator. You can see the propane tank and also the burn head (from which the vaporized solution is emitted from) on top (the cylinder/box on top of the pole on the left in the picture).

Before joining Utah-based North American Weather Consultants, Todd Flanagan worked on weather modification projects for over 17 years in Pleasanton, TX.

Water Supply and Snowmelt: A Vital Connection

The core objective of cloud seeding in mountainous regions is to increase snowfall and improve the snowpack. This, in turn, ensures a longer melt period in the spring, crucial for providing drinking water and potable water to communities in the west, including states like Utah and California.

Flanagan reports that communities in these regions heavily rely on melting snow from mountains for their drinking water supply. Cloud seeding contributes to combating drought conditions in the west by extending the duration of the spring melt period. As a result, these communities receive a more consistent and sustained water supply during a critical time of the year.

The use of propane-powered generators adds a layer of efficiency to this process. Propane's portability allows for strategic placement of generators in remote, high-altitude locations, maximizing their impact on snowfall and snowpack enhancement. This method not only addresses water scarcity at its source but also does so in a way that minimizes disruption to the communities it serves.

Technological Advancements in Cloud Seeding

As the demand for effective water resource management grows, technological advancements in cloud seeding have become imperative. One notable development involves the creation of a network of remote cloud seeding generators, controlled by cellular or satellite technology. These generators can be strategically placed in higher elevations, overcoming meteorological phenomena like inversions and ensuring efficient seeding in various weather conditions.

The placement of remote generators in locations that allow for better control and operation without relying on public assistance



As the demand for effective water resource management grows, technological advancements in cloud seeding have become imperative.

represents a significant leap forward. This not only enhances the precision of cloud seeding efforts but also addresses logistical challenges associated with maintaining and monitoring ground-based generators in challenging terrains.

North American Weather Consultants has plans to deploy 60-80 remote controlled generators in the future.

As we navigate the challenges of water scarcity to our neighbors in the West, propane-powered cloud seeding emerges as an ongoing viable solution. It offers a sustainable solution to bolster snowpack, secure water resources for generations to come, and paves the way for continued advancements in technology to address the ever-evolving needs of water management in mountainous regions. The marriage of propane and cloud seeding stands as a testament to human ingenuity in finding innovative solutions to pressing environmental issues.

A Breakthrough in Propane Production: How Science is Changing the Propane Game with CO₂ Conversion



“As the United States races toward its target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, innovative methods to reduce the significant carbon dioxide emissions from electric power and industrial sectors are critical,” writes *Science Daily*.

And according to the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) and scientific publications like *Science Daily*, a team of researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology (ITT) has developed a new method for producing propane from carbon dioxide (CO₂). The breakthrough, which has been hailed as a major step forward in the fight against emissions, could revolutionize the propane industry.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a colorless, odorless gas composed of one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms. It plays a crucial role in Earth’s natural carbon cycle and is a byproduct of various natural processes such as respiration, volcanic activity, and the decay of organic matter. While CO₂ is essential for sustaining life on our planet by enabling photosynthesis, which plants use to produce energy, its concentration in the Earth’s atmosphere has increased significantly through energy production. This excess CO₂ acts as a greenhouse gas, trapping heat in the atmosphere and contrib-

uting to detrimental effects on the environment. The rise in CO₂ levels has far-reaching environmental consequences, including rising sea levels, shifts in weather patterns, and disruptions to ecosystems, underscoring the need for effective strategies to mitigate its impact and transition towards a more sustainable uses.

“At the heart of this transformation lies the innovative capacity to harness carbon dioxide (CO₂) and transmute it into propane—a milestone that has eluded the scientific community for years. This watershed discovery embodies the spirit of ingenuity that is required to navigate the complex web of energy production and environmental sustainability,” writes Alex Smith, the Director of Codes & Standards at the National Propane Gas Association.

The ITT researchers used a combination of molybdenum, phosphorus, and carbon to create a catalyst that can efficiently convert CO₂ into propane – a fuel that holds immense value in our energy-hungry world. The catalyst is made from inexpensive and readily available materials, and it can be used in a continuous process, which makes it scalable and economically viable.

“A distinctive feature of this technology, lending to its commercial viability, is the implementation of a flow electrolyzer. This design permits continuous propane production, sidestepping the pitfalls of the more conventional batch processing methods,” reports ITT.

The conversion of CO₂ into propane is a promising way to reduce emissions. CO₂ is a major contributor to emissions, and by turning it into a valuable fuel, we can help to mitigate its effects. Moreover, beyond the realm of propane, scientific exploration has extended its reach to other valuable fuels as well. Researchers across the globe are delving into innovative methods to transform carbon dioxide into a diverse range of usable energy sources. From hydrogen to synthetic methane, these experiments highlight the multifaceted potential of CO₂ conversion, signaling

a shift towards a more sustainable energy landscape.

The ITT breakthrough is just the latest in a series of advances in green propane production. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in developing renewable propane and this is just one more eco-friendly way to produce propane from renewable resources. Now researchers have found a way to recycle carbon into propane.

“The significance of ITT’s breakthrough reverberates far beyond its laboratory confines. The conversion of CO₂, a notorious greenhouse gas, into a valuable energy source like propane carries the potential to simultaneously reduce emissions and advance energy access,” Smith writes.

Here are some additional details about the breakthrough:

- The catalyst developed by the ITT researchers is made from molybdenum, phosphorus, and carbon. These materials are inexpensive and readily available, which makes the catalyst scalable and economically viable.
- The catalyst can efficiently convert CO₂ into propane in a continuous process. This means that it can be used to produce propane on a large scale.
- The conversion of CO₂ into propane is a promising way to reduce emissions. CO₂ is a major contributor to emissions, and by turning it into a valuable fuel, we can help to mitigate its effects.

The Future of CO₂ to Propane

The ITT breakthrough is a major step forward in the development of propane production. It is a promising technology that could have a significant impact on the fight against emissions. With further development, this technology could help to make clean energy more accessible to everyone and create a more sustainable future.

There are a number of challenges that need to be addressed before green propane production can become a reality. These challenges include:

- The cost of the catalyst
- The efficiency of the conversion process
- The scalability of the technology

However, the ITT breakthrough has shown that these challenges are not insurmountable. With further research and development, it is likely that green propane production will become a viable option in the near future.

The development of green propane production is a positive step towards a more sustainable future. By turning CO₂ into a valuable fuel, we can help to reduce emissions in energy production.

“For decades, scientists have been on a quest to unlock the secrets of CO₂ conversion, and ITT’s breakthrough is a monumental leap towards realizing this vision,” Smith reports.

PSC
For all your compliance & safety needs

- TPGA Member only discounts
- Decals, books, signs, business forms, training materials, bill stuffers, compliance materials, consumer safety items, and custom orders

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PROPANESERVICECORP.COM

FOLLOW US ON OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

[propaneservicecorp](https://www.facebook.com/propaneservicecorp) [propaneservicecorp](https://www.instagram.com/propaneservicecorp)

Winter Warriors: The Unsung Heroes of Propane Delivery

For propane delivery drivers, the season brings a different reality: treacherous roads, biting winds, and the pressure of ensuring warm homes for their communities.

The Challenges of the Road: Potholes become masked by a thin sheen of ice, and narrow roads offer little room for error when brakes meet slick asphalt. Black ice lurks beneath a deceptive layer of dew, waiting to send tires into a heart-stopping slide.

Beyond the Physical: The mental fortitude of these drivers is equally impressive. Solitude is a constant companion, broken only by the rumble of the engine and the occasional call from dispatch. The weight of responsibility is heavy, knowing that a missed delivery can mean a freezing night for families, elderly folks, or even livestock.

A Community on Wheels: But the isolation is not absolute. Rural propane drivers develop a unique bond with the communities they serve. They become familiar faces, welcomed by a wave or a steaming

mug of coffee on the porch. They witness the changing seasons, the joys and sorrows of their customers, and become part of the fabric of the community.

Adapting and Improving: Resourcefulness is another key trait. They learn to read the landscape like a seasoned traveler, anticipating trouble spots and improvising solutions. They become MacGyvers of the road, using whatever is available to get the job done.

Technology as a Lifeline: Technology remains a vital ally. GPS alerts warnings of icy patches, and weather updates keep them a step ahead of the elements. But ultimately, it's the driver's skill and experience that make the difference. They become extensions of their vehicles.

Beyond the Job: The dedication of rural propane drivers extends beyond their deliveries. They volunteer for local events, check on isolated neighbors during storms, and become pillars of their com-



munities. Their commitment goes beyond a paycheck; it's driven by a deep sense of service and a genuine care for the people they serve.

A Message of Appreciation: Propane delivery drivers are more than just drivers; they are winter warriors, ensuring the comfort and safety of their communities. Their dedication, skill, and resourcefulness are appreciated.

PROPANE BOBTAILS | REFINED FUEL TANK WAGONS | OIL/WATER SEPARATORS

New, used and refurbished propane bobtails, change-overs, and repairs

*Financing available

WHITE RIVER DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Two propane bobtail trucks are shown parked on a brick surface. The truck on the left is decorated with a patriotic American flag theme and features a graphic of a man in a cowboy hat. The truck on the right is also decorated with a patriotic theme and features a graphic of a bald eagle. Both trucks have propane tanks and are equipped with delivery equipment.

Over 75 years of tank truck fabrication

lpgbobtails.com P.O. Box 2037 | Batesville, AR 72503 1-800-548-7219
Southwest Sales Center 1-800-483-9971

BLT Tanks LLC

800-753-5467

BLTTanks.com



Selling & Refurbishing Propane Tanks Since 1994

100 % Family Owned, Operated, and Funded in the USA



Rebuilt Tanks

250 gal \$725-\$925

330 gal \$875-\$1075

500 gal \$1295-\$1775

1000 gal \$2200-\$2850

*All prices are plus freight.
Other sizes and conditions available.
Warranty on all rebuilt tanks.
Storage tank inventory updated
frequently at BLTTanks.com
Prices are subject to change



**WE PURCHASE GOOD & JUNK TANKS
IN LOAD LOTS NATIONWIDE**

Propane Personnel: Gearing Up for Peak Heating Season Safety Considerations

As the temperatures drop and demand for propane increases, it's more crucial than ever to prioritize safety throughout the peak heating season. Here are some best practices to ensure your own well-being and that of our customers.



Winter Weather Woes

Roads: Be prepared for potential delivery delays. Advise customers to keep their tanks above 30%. Update contact information for efficient communication.

Icy conditions: Use caution when navigating snowy or icy terrain. Wear proper footwear and clothing for traction and warmth. Ensure delivery vehicles and equipment are winterized.



Visibility issues: Adjust work schedules and driving habits during low-visibility periods like dawn or dusk. Use headlights and reflective gear for increased visibility.

Safety First

Leak detection: Carry and utilize gas detectors regularly during deliveries and inspections.

Carbon monoxide (CO): Understand the dangers of CO poisoning. Ensure all propane appliances are properly vented



and serviced annually. Remind customers to install and maintain CO detectors in their homes.

Emergency procedures: Be prepared to act quickly in case of a leak or fire. Review safety protocols with your team and conduct mock drills.



Customer Care

Communication is key: Keep customers informed about potential delivery delays due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Offer tips for conserving energy and maintaining their equipment.



Safety education: Share winter safety tips with customers, emphasizing the importance of keeping tanks full, proper ventilation, and CO detector installation.



Vulnerable populations: Be extra vigilant when servicing homes with elderly or disabled residents. Ensure they have adequate propane supplies and functioning appliances.

Attire & PPE



• **Dress for the weather but beware of static electricity:** Layer up with warm, dry clothing and wear appropriate footwear for snow and ice. When choosing attire, it's essential to consider static electricity, which can pose a safety hazard. Certain fabrics, such as synthetics and polyester, generate more static electricity than others. Cotton and cotton blends, on the other hand, tend to produce less static. Avoid garments that create static sparks, especially in static control areas. This includes being cautious with garments like sweaters or coats, which should never be removed in static-sensitive environments.

Remember: Safety is a shared responsibility. By acknowledging these tips, propane personnel can be reminded of some important winter propane safety considerations while providing exceptional service to your customers. Let's make this winter warm and worry-free!

Share Propane RV Safety with Winter Texans



As winter descends upon Texas, bringing with it the influx of Winter Texans and snowbirds seeking refuge from colder climates, ensuring the safety of propane usage becomes paramount. Share important propane information with your RV customers.

Here are some tips that you can share with your customers:

1. Get an inspection. RV owners should have their propane system inspected annually by a qualified service technician. These technicians, like any expert, get training that helps them to predict and address any issues with your propane system properly. Please leave it to the experts and do not attempt to repair any propane-related component yourself.

2. It is also important to ensure that the RV has at least one Class B:C fire extinguisher and operational propane, carbon monoxide, and smoke detectors.

3. Read the owner's manuals. It is always a good idea to read the RV owner's manual and appliance manuals and carefully follow instructions. If there has been a recall notice on appliances — or anything in the RV — have the vehicle serviced before departure.

4. Inspect propane cylinders and hold-

ing mechanisms for any signs of rust, corrosion, fatigue, or wear and tear. For ASME tanks, check the brackets and mounting hardware, as well. Have a certified service technician check out any issues.

5. If you detect a leak or sense a propane odor similar to a rotten egg smell, immediately leave the area and call 911 or

the local fire department. Before you restart or use any propane appliances, have a qualified service technician inspect your entire system.

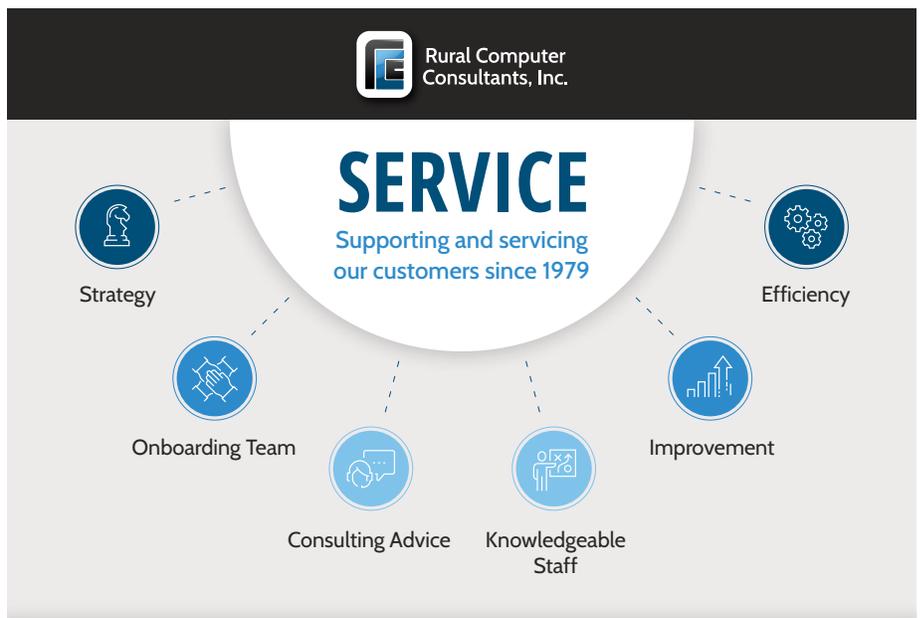
6. Clear the cooking area. Propane is most often used to cook food and cool beverages at rest stops and campgrounds. Before cooking on an indoor RV stove, open a window and turn on exhaust fans.

7. If you are cooking outdoors using portable fuel-burning equipment, including wood, charcoal, and outdoor propane grills and stoves, make sure you're a safe distance from the RV and propane tanks. Never use outdoor cooking equipment inside.

8. Travelers should also keep propane tanks and cylinders at least 10 feet away from heat sources. Remember, propane is a safe fuel when handled properly.

9. When being refueled with propane, 1) Turn off the engine, 2) Extinguish all pilot lights and open flames, and 3) RV occupants must vacate the vehicle during the filling process.

Share this link with your customers <https://www.propanecounciloftexas.org/rvsafety> or download the Propane and Your Recreational Vehicle brochure from the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), also linked to the above mentioned link and print as needed.



Over 70 employees and 650 years of combined service in the fuel industry!

800-722-6659 | rcci.com

Security Camera Laws in Texas: What You Need To Know Now

By Monica Gonzales, www.Security101.com



Eliminating vulnerabilities for your business in Texas requires a plethora of modern solutions and best practices. Some of them, like a first-class video surveillance system, are critical to secure your assets from both internal and external threats and keeping your location safe 24/7/365.

For Texas business owners and security managers working with a veteran security integrator and choosing the right cameras to harden a site can significantly increase your security awareness and boost the sense of safety among your employees and visitors. Advanced cameras, in addition, can act as a potent crime deterrent and a key instrument for recording and reporting security gaps.

Strategic Placement of Cameras

Once the right video surveillance technologies are selected, it is important to deliberately place your cameras. Outdoors, they can restrain criminals and improve apprehension rates.

This is confirmed by the 2012 study

“Understanding Decisions to Burglarize from the Offender’s Perspective,” conducted by the University of North Carolina on the subject, where 422 incarcerated male and female burglars were surveyed and asked a number of questions to determine the effectiveness of sophisticated security camera systems.

The data clearly reflects the efficacy of protecting your site with a smart surveillance solution as the vast majority of the offenders revealed they were affected negatively by the presence of security cameras. About 60% of them said that such a system would cause them to choose another target and discontinue the illicit activity.

Indoor cameras are also indispensable. They can support workflow monitoring, deter employee theft, prevent shoplifting, avoid frivolous lawsuits, reduce your insurance costs, and help you create a safer work environment.

Texas’s Laws on Video Surveillance In The Workplace

In the Lone Star State, if only video

is recorded in the workplace, notice and consent are not mandatory, but suggested. However, if audio is also recorded, notice and consent are required. For customers, signs should be openly posted on-site to indicate the presence of cameras.

If you are a property owner or manager, include a clause about video surveillance in your rental agreement.

If you are an employer, let your staff know that video monitoring of certain areas will take place and get their written consent. As a business owner, the best way to protect your company from an invasion of privacy allegations is to set clear expectations about employee privacy from the beginning and reinforce these principles with signed agreements.

These are other important TEXAS laws to observe:

Sec. 21.15. A person commits an offense if, without the other person’s consent and with intent to invade the privacy of the other person, the person records, broadcasts, or transmits a visual image of areas where it is known that employees may be undressed on a routine basis, i.e., bathrooms or dressing rooms. Invasive visual recording and voyeurism are serious offenses in the Longhorn State.

There is no expectation of privacy in public spaces. Courts rarely find that there is an objectively reasonable expectation of privacy in public, no matter how seemingly private the public space may seem.

Hidden cameras. Video recording (without sound) is usually okay – even if the camera is hidden – unless the person(s) being recorded has a reasonable expectation of privacy, the taping is done for some illegal purpose or there was trespass to record the video.

Only authorized personnel should view surveillance tapes. Defamation and invasion of privacy suits can result if tapes are shown to unauthorized persons.

Audio Recording: Texas — A One-Party Consent State

States are permitted to pass their own laws pertaining to video and audio surveillance. Texas is considered a “one-party consent” state when it comes to recording conversations. This means that under Texas law, Penal Code Sec. 16.02., it is a crime to intentionally intercept or secretly record any wire, oral, or electronic communication without the consent of at least one party.

If you take part in the conversation or gain the consent of one of the parties you may legally record the conversation. If you wish to record a conversation to which you are not a participant, all of the parties must give consent before the recording device is turned on or there must be no reasonable expectation of privacy for the recording to be legal.

However, if during an audio recording in TX there are multiple parties who are in different states, it is vital to be cognizant of other state laws that may require pre-recording consent of all of the parties. In this scenario, if the recording party obtains consent from the other parties before the recording begins, then the recorder is not in violation of wiretapping laws.

The Need of A License

Texas requires a state contractors' license issued by the Texas Private Security Bureau, a Division Of The Texas Department Of Public Safety to install surveillance equipment on public property. Licensed contractors, like Security 101, carry liability insurance and warranty all installations.

A license ensures:

Knowledgeable installation with proper camera placement to keep your organization secure and compliant.

Safe installation to protect against electrical issues and camera failure.

Recourse through your state licensing entity if the installer does a poor job.

Protection against scammers, fraud, and criminals who use security camera installation as a cover.

Lawful Use of Video Surveillance

When employers use video cameras to monitor employees, they must have a legitimate motive to do so. State privacy laws may determine the extent to which video monitoring is considered legitimate.

Most of these laws limiting video surveillance use in the workplace pertaining to restrooms, break rooms and other areas for which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

It is quite common for retail stores, banks, restaurants, and other employers that interact with the public to use video surveillance in areas where there are valuable items and theft prevention is crucial.

Even if employees who work in cubicles probably think they have some privacy, many companies and businesses of all types monitor employee interactions. Business insurance providers may even offer lower premiums if the insured company has video surveillance of their business.

Regardless of the reason for use, it is always a good idea to let employees know

that cameras are being used in the workplace. Moreover, as Texas has very specific laws regarding audio recordings, it is indispensable to closely collaborate with a security professional that is a specialist in protecting businesses with sophisticated video surveillance technologies and who knows in depth the specific laws and regulations at the state and local level in Texas (Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio).

Efficient monitoring is important to protect people and assets. However, it is equally necessary to ensure compliance with Texas's laws to avoid penalties and liabilities.

This article was originally published in November 2022. It is for information purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice.

**Protect Your Business!
Enforce Your Contracts!
Lock America's Fill Valve and POlock
Ensure Your Fuel Goes in Your Tanks!**



No Tools Needed!
*Your Exclusive Key coded for all your locks,
including Locks for Cages!*
Call Lock America or Your Distributor for samples!



HELP!!
Business is booming!
We need Sales Reps, Customer Service Reps, Assemblers!
Competitive Salary & Benefits! Full Pay When Training!



LOCK AMERICA!
The Definitive Word in Locks
800-422-2866

www.laigroup.com sales@laigroup.com

In the Heart of Texas: PERC Charts a Course for 2024

Several Campaigns, Initiatives and Programs Approved



This past November, TPGA Executive Director Bill Van Hoy welcomed Councilors to the national Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) Meeting held at the Western La Cantera in San Antonio. The meeting hosted Councilors from all over the United States who came to review and consider national PERC programs for 2024.

The meeting commenced with an Executive Report from PERC Chairman Chris DeFilippo. Following this, Chris Hill of Meritum Energy in San Antonio, serving as the PERC Vice-chairman, delivered the Marketers Report, focusing on advisory committee updates. Concurrently, Joe McGinn of Energy Transfer, the PERC Vice-

chairman for Producers, presented the Producers Report and provided insights into the forecast for the upcoming season.

Tom Van Buren, NPGA Chair-elect, also from Meritum Energy in San Antonio, reported on National Propane Gas Association initiatives, including filing a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Department of Energy for the new furnace and water heater rule.

In continuation, Joel Moxley, President & CEO of GPA Midstream, shared a comprehensive report on the supply, emphasizing how processing capacity is growing in the Permian and reporting on several noteworthy expansions in NGL production.

Tucker Perkins, President & CEO,

rounded up the executive reports, underscoring significant developments. He drew attention to the vast consumption of 60 billion gallons of diesel annually in the United States, identifying an opportunity for potential propane growth to displace diesel in on and off road and power generation.

Perkins highlighted how fracking of natural gas has gotten cleaner, and overall well-to-wheel propane is cleaner. Perkins reported that by the end of next year, they will have produced 125 million gallons of renewable propane. Perkins also shed light on advancements from around the globe, citing the example of Chile, where they are creating an eLPG from Hydrogen.

Michael Ross, PMP, Sr Program Manager at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, provided a detailed report on Propane and Diesel Displacement, offering valuable insights the future of diesel as well as the future of propane.

The following dockets received approval at the Propane Education & Research Council meeting, providing a comprehensive overview of key initiatives for the upcoming period:

Safety, Education & Compliance Dockets

Docket 24221: Accreditation Program, \$200,000

Supports the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training accreditation through the establishment and delivery of Train the Trainer qualification programs to qualify related propane industry instructors and field trainers to instruct CEU eligible content.

Docket 24220: Basic Plant Operations Modularization Phase 1, \$800,000

Converts the extensive 600-page Basic Plant Operations book into on-demand e-learning modules, providing more on demand online training available to marketers.

Docket 24219: Propane Educational Content Creation and Updating, \$650,000

Supports ongoing educational content development, including refresher training, a Propane Manager Training Program, and content updates based on industry feedback and code changes.

Finance, Data & Technology Report

Docket 24225: Partnership with Industry Organizations, \$1,495,000

Funding for collaborating with other industry organizations, Advisory Committee participation, codes and standards, research and development, agency outreach, communications, and conferences.

Docket 24218: 2024 Market Data & Research Program, \$645,100

Supports specific propane research, data acquisition, Annual Retail Sales Report, Propane Forecast Model update, and ad hoc projects.

Communications & Marketing Report

Docket 24186: 2024 Integrated Marketing & Communications Plan, \$12,863,000

Encompasses total 2024 programming for markets, digital development, corpo-

rate communications, and environmental thought leadership.

Industry Relations Report

Docket 24170: 2024 Environmental Campaign, \$5,410,000

Aims to engage state propane councils in consumer education efforts on propane's benefits. In 2023, through PERC's support and dollars, Texas was able to serve 16 million ads to Texans through radio, TV and web.

Docket 24144: 2024 Workforce Outreach and Education, \$1,020,000

Supports propane workforce training, education to allied markets, and technical school curriculums.

Docket 24171: 2024 Industry Engagement, \$879,500

Covers outreach and meeting expenses for promoting consumer education efforts, environmental messaging, market growth, and safety programs.

Docket 24251: Heat Pump Helper Personal Use Program, \$400,000

Enables states to match funds for 10 units installed for personal use by propane industry employees.

Business Development Dockets

Docket 23667 Change Order: Propane Construction Incentive Program 2023, \$650,000

Increases funding to honor 2023 incentive applicants for builder rebates, processing 1,000 construction incentives from

builders across 18 states.

Docket 24226: 2024 Propane Construction Research & Data Collection Program, \$2,500,000

Aims to deliver funding to support research and data collection from builders and developers across the country.

Docket 24204: 2024 Autogas Market Business Development, \$776,700

Supports activities to communicate the financial and environmental benefits of Autogas.

Docket 24202: 2024 Residential Market Business Development, \$545,500

Focuses on supporting the residential market with a focus on Heat Pump Solutions and other applications.

Docket 24205: 2024 Commercial Market Business Development, \$345,380

Supports the commercial market through in-person meetings, a continuing education program, and attendance at tradeshow.

Docket 24267: 2024 Off Road Market Business Development, \$313,500

Aims to support the off-road market through various engagements.

Docket 24203: 2024 Agriculture Market Business Development, \$230,095

Focuses on engaging activities to convince farmers, ranchers, and producers to choose propane for its affordability, low total cost of ownership, and environmental benefits.

Next Council Meetings

February 13, Virtual

April 24–25, Hot Springs, VA

*Let the company that knows
your business, protect your business*



**worker's compensation • general liability • auto insurance
property insurance • health insurance & employee benefits
risk management services**

**Protecting Propane and Petroleum
Dealers for over 20 Years!**



225 S. Fifth St., Waco, TX 76701 • (800) 267-6221 • www.insurors.com



NPGA Accepting Scholarship Applications Until February 15



Established nearly 30 years ago, the NPGF Scholarship Foundation has awarded over \$2.4 million in scholarships to more than 1,600 children of NPGA member company employees. Each year, the National Propane Gas Foundation Scholarship Fund provides \$1,000 or \$2,000 scholarships to students all across the country, including Texas, who are attending two- or four-year colleges or pursuing propane-related careers at technical, trade, or vocational schools, and whose parents are employed by NPGA member companies. The National Propane Gas Foundation Schol-

arship application period for the 2024-2025 school year is from December 15, 2023, to February 15, 2024.

Who is eligible to apply for an NPGF scholarship? To be eligible, applicants must be:

- The child (biological, step, adopted, or under legal guardianship) of a full-time employee at a National Propane Gas Association (NPGA), state association member company, or the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC). Grandchildren or other relatives are not eligible.

- The parent's work must be directly involved in the production, transportation, marketing, or distribution of propane; supplying goods or services to NPGA member companies; or supplying propane appliances to propane consumers.

- A high school senior or an undergraduate student with a grade point average of at least 2.6 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent); and

- A full-time student in the upcoming school year in an undergraduate degree program at an accredited college or university or enrolled full-time in a certificate or one- or two-year degree program at an accredited vocational, technical, or trade school. Applicants may be pursuing any course of study; students pursuing a propane-related technical field (Commercial Truck Driver; Electrician; Gas Fitter; HVAC Technician; Pipe Fitter; Plumber) are especially encouraged to apply; and

- Unmarried and under the age of 24 at the application deadline.

How does a student apply?

Apply online at <https://www.npga.org/news-resources/scholarships/> by February 15, 2024, at 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time. NPGF uses CommunityForce, an application management software platform, and applications are only accepted online through CommunityForce. Students do not need to complete the application in one sitting; the student can save their work and go back to it later. Students should keep their login credentials after they submit their application, as the student will need to re-access the system if the student is selected to receive a scholarship. The application includes three short essay questions. In addition, the application asks for:

- The name and NPGA member company ID number of the parent's employer (Email info@npga.org to obtain the company NPGA member number);

- Family financial information;

- An official academic transcript; and

- Information about their activities.

How are applicants selected?

Criteria employed in selecting scholarship recipients include financial need, academic merit, activities, and responses to essay questions. It is in your best interest to provide thoughtful, high-quality responses, with correct spelling and proper grammar. The application is designed to capture any additional criteria designated by the donor(s), and you will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible (employer-based, state-based, at large, technical). Incomplete and ineligible applications are withdrawn from consideration.

How will a student be notified if a student is selected to receive an award?

All applicants will be notified of their status by email, typically in mid-May. Make sure you apply with an email address that you check regularly and that will not expire (e.g., avoid using a school-issued email address if you are about to graduate). NPGA does not send notifications to applicants via text or regular mail, so please check your email – and please add scholarship@npga.org and admin@communityforce.com to your address book so you are sure to receive our communications. NPGA only communicates with parents as a last resort!

If I am awarded a scholarship, how do I receive the award and what does it pay for?

If you are selected to receive a scholarship, NPGA will ask you to formally accept the award and complete a recipient questionnaire to provide us with a variety of follow-up information, including your school's address and your student ID. Scholarship award checks are mailed over the summer directly to your educational institution, to be posted to your account and applied to tuition & fees and room & board for the academic year starting in the fall semester.

NPGF Scholarship Changes for 2024

New in 2024, NPGF has streamlined the payment process. The full award will be paid in one payment for the entire academic year. Schools typically then split the award over their academic calendar accordingly, e.g., fall and spring semester. Also new in 2024, NPGF will not require

recipients to provide an updated GPA before receiving the award. A GPA of 2.6 is still the minimum eligibility requirement. After being selected to receive an award, students must remain in good academic standing according to their school's policy.

For more information and to apply, go to <https://www.npga.org/news-resources/scholarships/>.

Questions? Please contact call 202-466-7200 or email scholarship@npga.org.

When does the Texas Propane Gas Association Scholarship application period open?

There is a separate application for the TPGA Scholarship. Texas Propane Gas Association Scholarship Foundation will open the application portal and start accepting applications for the TPGA scholarship in the Spring of 2024. Watch for more information at www.txpropane.com/scholarship.



Experts at delivering
QUALITY every time.

QUALITY STEEL
Because Quality Steel Means Quality Tanks
★ Thank You for Supporting USA Manufacturers ★

Visit Us Online:
www.propanetank.com

TRUSTED & BEST
Quality | Customer Service | Delivery | People
Warranty | Distribution Network | Inventory

Quality is more than just our name. We strive each and every day to provide our valued customers with the absolute best products and services available. We are family owned and appreciate the relationship we have with our customers. When you want the best...choose **QUALITY**.

HOME OFFICE
2914 U.S. 61
Cleveland, MS 38732
800-345-2495

OHIO LOCATION
721 Graham Drive
Fremont, OH 43420
419-334-2664

UTAH LOCATION
5601 Axel Park Rd.
West Jordan, UT 84081
801-280-1133

Brent Rogers
Regional Sales Manager
662-719-0716 • brogers@propanetank.com

Autogas News

New Year, New Grants Webinar



Save the Date: New Year, New Grants: What's on the Horizon in Alternative Fuel Funding is Tuesday, February 13, 2024 @ Noon- 1:00 CST.

Co-hosted by: DFW Clean Cities, Houston-Galveston Clean Cities, Alamo Area Clean Cities and Lone Star Clean Fuels Alliance with the American Energy Institute

The webinar will cover:

- Anticipated 2024 TERP grant availability.
 - Information to collect before applying
 - Differences between grant requirements
- Plus, what grants are next on the horizon! Register at <https://bit.ly/475ewMx>.

TCEQ TERP Updated Grants Calendar



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has released its grant calendar, so don't miss this opportunity for your fleet or customers fleets.

Light Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program. Open, Closes March 22, 2024

Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFP). Opens January 3, 2024

Texas Clean School Bus Program (TCSB). Opens February 14, 2024

Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emission Reduction Program (SPRY). Opens April 3, 2024

Diesel Emission Reduction Incentive Grants (DERI). Opens May 15, 2024

- Rebate Grants Program (Round I)
- Emission Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG)

Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVP). Opens September 4, 2024

New Technology Implementation Grant Program (NTIG). Opens October 16, 2024

Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program (GAFF). Opens December 4, 2024

Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP). Opens January 15, 2025

Rebate Grants Program (Round II). Opens March 5, 2025

Learn more about these TERP grants at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/>.

Deadline for EPA Clean School Bus Program Is At the End of the Month

\$500M Available for Clean School Buses Across the Nation From Large Metros to Rural Communities

The Clean School Bus Program administered by the Environment Protec-



tion Agency (EPA) has reopened. The program incentivizes the replacement of existing model year 2010 or older diesel school buses with clean school buses, including propane school buses.

Rebate applications can request funds for replacing up to 25 buses. Who can apply for the rebate? Eligible applicants include school districts and transportation contractors. Priority school districts, including rural, low-income, large enrollment, and tribal schools.

What funding are propane buses eligible for? School buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria are eligible for between up to \$30,000 to \$35,000 and buses serving school districts that are not prioritized up to \$20,000-\$25,000.

Rebate applications are due no later than January 31, 2024. Learn more at <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/>. Don't let school districts in your community miss out on this funding and share this school bus rebate information with your school districts



BAM Propane is committed to servicing your propane needs with supply availability at all the major supply points across Texas. We market Polygrade Propylene, Refrigerant Grade Propane in addition to HD-5. Please contact us for more information:

Jeff Severson
Marketing Manager
(817) 738-8224 (Office)
(817) 894-6126 (Mobile)

GEC Has You Covered

Since 1937, GEC has been providing dependable equipment supported by knowledgeable people in the field, exceptional customer service on the phone and, in recent times, 24-hour access via our online web store.



In the Field,



On the Phone,



And Online.

GEC is a proud Distributor for the following equipment manufacturers.



A MAKEEN Energy Company

Atlanta GA
(800) 241-4155

Chandler OK
(800) 763-0953

Dallas TX
(800) 821-1829

Fayetteville NC
(800) 447-1625

Houston TX
(800) 334-7816

Indianapolis IN
(800) 241-1971

Kansas City MO
(800) 821-5062

Little Rock AR
(800) 643-8222

Richmond VA
(800) 368-4013

St. Louis MO
(800) 423-4685

Sebring FL
(800) 821-0631

www.gasequipment.com



Tracy Wells
East Texas

John Percy
West Texas

Mike Armstrong
South Texas



NO JOB IS TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL

We Sell Tanks Wholesale and Retail



We stock Propane Tanks

We offer tanks for sale and for installation

- 120#
- 250 above and underground
- 500 above and underground
- 1000 above and underground
- We can order tanks up to 30,000 gallon

Serving Central Texas with Pride

Propane Plus, LLC
450 County Road 180
Leander, TX 78641

<https://propaneplusatx.com>
propaneplus01@yahoo.com
512-259-7587

Propane Plus, LLC
5325 W. Highway 29
Bertram, TX 78605

Do You Have This Resource?

Guide to Answering Questions This Heating Season

Heating season is here! And the phones are ringing with numerous customer questions from everything to I smell gas to I ran out of gas, now what?

The Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT) recently updated its CSR flip guide. The guide is a tool for those who answer the phone in your office, giving them quick answers to customers' common propane questions.



Every Texas propane company's main branch received one, but what about your other branches? Do they have this handy guide?

Complimentary flip guides are available for up to 3 flip guides per Texas propane company branch during the 2023-2024 heating season for the price of shipping and handling through Propane Service Corporation (PSC)'s online store at <https://propaneservicecorp.com/products/csr-flip-guide-for-texas>.

Don't miss out on this valuable tool for front office staff.

2023 Appliance Rebate Applications

Extended Deadline Nearing



Jan 1 – December 31, 2023 appliance purchases must be submitted no later than **the extended deadline of January 31, 2024**.

Don't let your customers miss out on propane appliance rebates from the Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT). The rebate program is open to both residential and commercial customers, including manufactured homes and commercial properties.

The following rebate amounts are available for appliance purchases made between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023:

- \$300 for a new propane boiler or furnace (includes propane backups).
- \$300 for a new propane water heater.

A rebate cap of \$600 per Texas household or business. Rebates are available on a first come, first served basis, while funding lasts throughout the 2023 calendar year.

A propane safety inspection by the propane provider is required, and the application must be submitted by the propane provider through our rebate portal. Physical copies of gas check forms are only required for new construction in place of a proof of purchase.

The rebate portal at <https://txsaveswithpropane.com> is your one stop shop to check funding availability, download marketing rebate materials, submit rebates, and check the status of each of your rebate applications.

For questions, please call 512-883-9925 or email rebates@propanecounciloftexas.org.

In Memoriam



George Franklin Scott from Eldorado, Texas passed away November 30 in San Angelo, Texas. In his retirement, George worked for Halbert LPG and Niblett Oil. Before that, he had served as plant foreman for ARCO Oil & Gas for 32 years. He was also a rancher and a farmer. He was known for his big personality and was often seen at the golf course. Among others, he is survived by his son, Randy Scott, his daughter and son-in-law, Kevin and Kim Thomas, and his grandchildren, Cassidy & Kash Thomas.



Maxine Bishop, 93, of Lufkin, passed away December 3, 2023. Maxine lived in Lufkin most of her life and owned and operated Bishops Propane and Tarrant Grocery Store. She was strong and hardworking, providing a loving home for her daughters. She was a bright light in this world and will be missed dearly. Our thoughts are with her family.

People In Propane

This December 2023, **Tex Propane**, represented by Jaxon and Wendy Fietsam (center), was recognized for its continuing contributions to the Schulenburg Volunteer Fire Department. Presenting the Fietsams with a plaque were (from left) Third Assistant Chief Gary Eudy, Second Assistant Chief Randy Wick; (from right) First Assistant Chief Drew Brossmann, and Chief Darren Guentert. Thank you for your commitment to safety. *Photo by Darrell Vyvjala and courtesy of The Schulenburg Sticker.*



Recall Notice for Traeger Flatrock Flat Top Propane Grills



The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a product recall affecting Traeger Flatrock Flat Top Propane Grills. The burner control knob on these grills may be incorrectly labeled, posing a fire hazard if unintentionally left on. Approximately 37,000 units are affected by this recall.

Consumers are urged to cease using the grills immediately and contact Traeger for inspection instructions. If found to have incorrectly labeled burner control knobs, customers will receive a free repair kit. To facilitate this process, Traeger can be reached at their toll-free number, 833-654-2407, or online at www.traeger.com/recall.

No injuries or fires have been reported, but 57 cases of incorrectly labeled flame adjustment knobs have been identified. The affected grills were sold nationwide at Ace Hardware, The Home Depot, and Scheel's stores, as well as online, from February 2023 to October 2023, priced at approximately \$900.

For further details, distributors and customers can refer to Recall Number 24-061 on Traeger's website or contact their customer service.

Fueling Success in the New Year: TPGA Has Your Back

As we head into the new year, the Texas Propane Gas Association (TPGA) remains your go-to ally in the propane industry. With TPGA, you've got a voice and a support system, keeping you in the loop with updates, compliance assistance, and valuable resources. As we step into 2024, we invite you to renew your TPGA membership for another year of industry influence and success.

Here are some perks you will enjoy as a member in 2024:

- TPGA provides advocacy and a voice for the propane industry.
- TPGA keeps our members informed and in the know with insider weekly updates.
- Access to Members Only, where you can regulatory news and more
- One on one compliance assistance on codes, rules, and regulations
- Access to free compliance resources like forms and templates
- Propane prices and supply reports during the heating season
- Quarterly meetings, a chance to

connect and forum for our members, where voices shape our industry on rules, codes, legislation, and regulations.

- Members get an exclusive listing on our consumer Texas Find a Propane Retailer Tool so potential customers can find them.
- Up to 30% discounts at Propane Service Corporation (PSC), your go to compliance store.
- Access to Affinity partners and programs from credit card processing to workers comp to fleet safety.



MARSHALL YOUNG
INSURANCE

People Who Care. Insurance That Works.

TPGA Texas Propane Gas Association

Disability Insurance • Farm & Ranch
Employee Benefits • Long Term Care
Business & Commercial Insurance
Home & Auto • Life Insurance

Isn't it time to trust that your insurance works as hard as you do?

- You will receive good old fashioned customer service.
- You will be educated about your policy coverages and shown where you might be vulnerable.
- You will receive multiple options for your insurance.

Yellow Rose Propane

Marshall Young Insurance has been our insurance agent for over 10 years. The team at Marshall Young continues to provide the same excellent service they did in day one. They are there for us day and night, hot or cold! Their involvement within TPGA helps them stay up to date with the industry and they help the insurance companies understand our business needs. If you aren't working with them currently, we recommend you reach out to Rusty or Chuck and the team as soon as you can



401 N. Ridgeway Drive,
Cleburne TX 76033
817-645-9155

WWW.MARSHALLYOUNG.COM

PetroStar Equipment Resources

Purchase & Sale Pre-Owned
Propane Tanks
5,000 gallons to 90,000 gallons

FOR SALE

30,000 gallon, 250 psi
(3) 50,000 gallon, 275psi

Contact: Jim Oliver
936-755-6108
petrostar@pdq.net



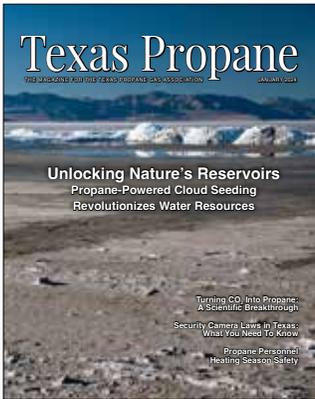
Garrett
INSURANCE

Garrett Insurance Agency, Inc
Formerly, Southern Star Insurance Agency, Inc
Cecil Joiner, Risk Manager
cecil@garrettinsurance.com
936-756-2222
www.garrettinsurance.com

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN
TEXAS PROPANE MAGAZINE?

For Advertising,
contact:
Joanne Pantaze at
512-273-2639
or by email at
jpantaze@zochnet.com

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS



- BAM Propane **24**
- BLT Tanks **15**
- Fisk Tank Carrier Inc. **Outside Back Cover**
- Gas Equipment Company **25**
- Insurors of Texas **21**
- Legacy Energy Consulting
Inside Front Cover
- Lock America **19**
- Lone Star Energy Group **28**
- Longhorn Propane **31**
- Marshall Young Insurance **27**
- Meeder Equipment Co. **6**
- METSA **5**
- Nixon & Lindstrom Insurance **7**
- Propane Plus LLC **25**
- Propane Service Corporation **13**
- Quality Steel **23**
- Rural Computer Consultants **17**
- Tarantin Industries **29**
- White River Distributors **14**



Are you paying too much
for Workers' Comp?

\$2.53
Million

**GIVEN BACK TO THE POLICYHOLDER
IN DIVIDENDS* SINCE INCEPTION**



FUEL YOUR PROFITS WITH LOWER WORKERS' COMP PREMIUMS

Endorsed by:



*Dividends are not guaranteed and past dividends are not a guarantee of future dividends. The Texas Department of Insurance must approve all dividend plans

Call your agent for a quote or call **Josh Andrajack, Group Administrator at 940-723-7111** or at josh_andrajack@ajg.com.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1**
TPGA Closed for New Year's Day
- 10**
Texas Propane magazine ad deadline
- 23-25**
POWERGEN International
New Orleans, LA
- 31**
EPA Clean School Bus Grant Deadline

FEBRUARY

- 6-8**
NPGA Winter Board of Directors, Committee &
Section Meetings
Monterey, CA
- 10**
Texas Propane magazine ad deadline
- 13**
PERC Council Meeting
Virtual

- 13**
New Year, New Grants Webinar
- 13-15**
World Ag Expo
Tulare, CA
- 21-22**
2024 National Propane Education & Training
Conference
Orlando, FL
- 27-29**
International Builder's Show
Las Vegas, NV

MARCH

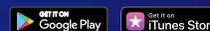
- 11- 13**
Technology, Standards & Safety Committee
Meeting
Hilton Head, SC
- 14-15**
Benchmarking Spring Meeting
Houston, TX

PROPANE EQUIPMENT? *Look no further*



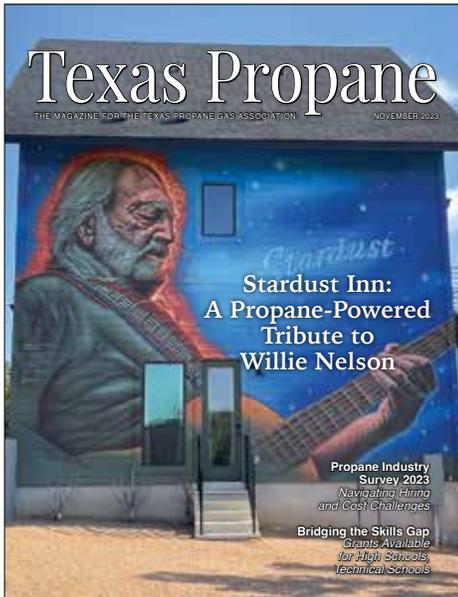
Tarantin
INDUSTRIES, INC.

Tarantin.com • 1.800.922.0724
Order days, nights & weekends at tarantin.com



Texas Propane

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE TEXAS PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION



12,000+

Print and online edition are distributed to over 12,000 propane industry professionals annually.

Readers

Our readers include propane company owners, propane retail managers, and propane industry leaders.

ADVERTISING SALES

Joanne Pantaze

512-273-2639 [phone](tel:512-273-2639)

jpantaze@zochnet.com [email](mailto:jpantaze@zochnet.com)

PUBLISHER

Kimberly Scheberle

Sail House Publishing

512-346-0892 [phone](tel:512-346-0892)

kscheberle@austin.rr.com [email](mailto:kscheberle@austin.rr.com)

Texas Propane is the official publication of the Texas Propane Gas Association and is the only publication geared exclusively toward the Texas propane industry. Each month, the print and online edition of *Texas Propane* reach over 1,000 decision making propane industry professionals (including every licensed full-service Texas propane retailer) providing an effective platform to market your products and services. **Space is limited. Reserve your spot today.**

2023 rates
are effective
through
March 31, 2024
Lock in rates now
with a contract

**LIMITED TIME
OFFER**

Black and White Rates, Per Issue

Size	1x	4x	12x
Outside Back Cover	\$921	\$879	\$820
Inside Front Cover	\$879	\$820	\$703
Inside Back Cover	\$879	\$820	\$703
Center Spread	\$1551	\$1442	\$1242
Full page	\$814	\$688	\$593
1/2 page	\$485	\$409	\$353
1/3 page	\$355	\$299	\$258
1/4 page	\$283	\$240	\$206

Advertorials **NEW**

An advertorial gives you a chance to describe your product and service in form of a story in our magazine. Upgrade your ad today to an advertorial for a 20% additional fee. Advertorials are available in full page (900 words), 1/2 page (400), & 1/4 page (200).

Advertisers are responsible for providing written article submission in an editable format. Images are permitted but it will reduce allowable word count. Advertorials are subject to review and acceptance by TPGA and will be labeled as "Sponsored Content".

Color

4-color can be added to any size ad for an additional 30% of space rate.

Classified Advertising Rates

Standard Classified Advertising is available for \$2/word. \$50 minimum per insertion.

Small logo or photo can be inserted for \$10.

Display classifieds are available for \$30/column inch (3 column grid format).

Discounts

TPGA members receive an additional 5% off all listed rates. All rates are net; no advertising agency discounts available.

Closing Dates

Space reservations for both display and classified advertising are due a month before the publication date. For example, a reservation for the February issue is due January 1. Artwork is due 5-10 days after the reservation deadline.



Since 1979, Longhorn Propane has proudly served the Central to South Texas region.

Our experienced staff is dedicated to providing an exceptional propane service for your business from Tank Sales to Transportation Services.



TANKS FOR SALE

NEW TANKS IN STOCK, YOU PICK EM' WE LOAD EM'
VARIOUS SIZES AVAILABLE FROM 119 VERTICALS, 250's, 500's, 1000's (AG and UG)
ANY QUANTITY IS **APPROVED** IF THE SELECTED PRODUCT(S) ARE IN STOCK

CALL AHEAD TO SCHEDULE AND PLACE YOUR ORDER

CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED



CONTACT US

RETAIL DIVISION: info@longhornpropane.com

TRANSPORT DIVISION: dispatch@longhornpropane.com

830-964-2525

1763 FM 2673, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, 78133



EXPECT MORE



FISK OWNERS EXPECT MORE. DO YOU?

THIS IS YOUR TX-1

The FISK TX-1 packs over 60 years of tank setting knowledge into a propane tank service and delivery machine. This truck has plenty of storage for tools and inventory, and can carry two 1,000 gal tanks independently. Serve more customers on a single trip and reduce time and transportation costs.

- More Storage
- More Load Space
- More Easy Up Access
- More Safety
- More Options
- More Up-time
- More Work Stations
- More Opportunity
- More Profit



We Have Used Trucks
Stick or Knuckle Boom



Request Quote

We Have Chassis
Order your Truck Today!



Contact Fisk Today! 920-477-0334 www.fiskinc.net

CUSTOM PROPANE TANK SERVICE AND INSTALLATION TRUCKS AND TRAILERS