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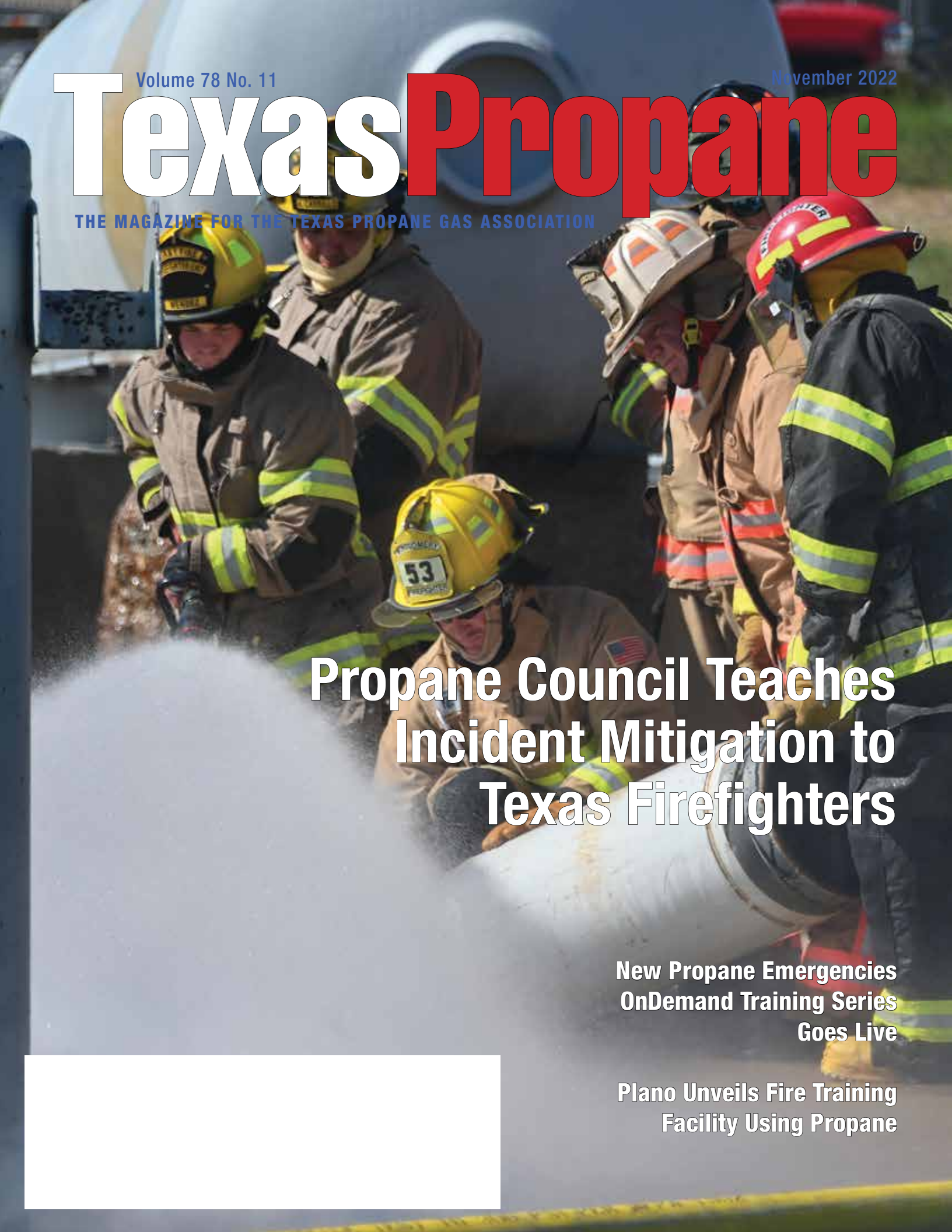
Texas Propane

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE TEXAS PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION



Propane Council Teaches Incident Mitigation to Texas Firefighters

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ProCOT Continues to Support Training for Emergency Responders

Bill Van Hoy

TPGA Executive Director

In late September, ProCOT hosted training for firefighters and first responders including propane industry, volunteer fire departments, hazmat roadside response and city fire departments at the TEEX ESTI Brayton Training Field in College Station. The training consisted of classroom instruction and actual real-life situations that could be encountered within their home fire districts. Propane industry professionals are included in this training to help facilitate relationships between first responders and the propane industry.

PERC will release the updated 2022-23 Propane Emergencies training in phases and will use new online modules to ensure that first responders and propane industry members have learned the necessary skills to respond to and work together on properly mitigating propane incidents.

For myself and the entire TPGA & PSC staff, we want to wish you happiness, beautiful moments, the warmth of your family, and an unforgettable Thanksgiving!

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Propane Council Teaches Incident Mitigation to Texas Firefighters

by Jackie Mason

Firefighters and emergency responders from across the Lone Star State gathered this past September 26-27, 2022, in Aggieland to attend propane emergency response training hosted and sponsored by the Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT). After a two-year hiatus, ProCOT returned to hold a two-day Propane Emergencies Training at the TEEX ESTI Brayton Training Field in College Station, Texas, where nearly 90 attended, a mixture of propane industry and emergency responders, including rural volunteer fire departments, hazmat roadside response, and city fire departments.

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"Propane is becoming increasingly prevalent in our communities across Texas, no longer just a vital energy for rural homes and farms. You can now see propane has backup power at cell towers, the oil field, back up to Texas grid, and at every convenience store," states Propane Emergencies instructor Mark Holloway.

We must be able to educate these emergency responders on propane. Communities of all sizes and all ages, with the youngest being 14 years old, attended the emergency response training.

"The TEEX facility is the world's largest fire training facility and gives firefighters and emergency responders the ability to enhance their skills in actual real-life situations that could be encountered within their home fire districts. Perfect practice makes perfect! Unfortunately, you cannot simulate real fire conditions in a field or parking lot in your home district. It takes real fire to truly hone your skills and prepare yourself for actual events. TEEX provides the tools for students to gain confidence in a controlled out-of-control situation," said Christopher Wagner, AmeriGas.

This was Wagner's first year instructing the Texas Propane Emergencies class, but he is no stranger to the Texas facility, teaching the state's large July Municipal School this past summer. Not only is he the Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs for AmeriGas, one of the largest retailers in the country, but he also has 36 years under his belt as a firefighter and is a former assistant fire chief and currently still serves as a volunteer firefighter and fire instructor in his home state of Pennsylvania.

"On the first day, we teach basic product principles and characteristics. Then we take them to the field, showing the difference between vapor and liquid releases. We show how wind affected the release and how much water it takes to actually mitigate release," said Mark Holloway, former Fire Chief and current Director of Supply Chain Operations for AmeriGas.

The exercises are not only to teach them mitigation but also to get them more comfortable with the product and incidents that may occur involving the product.

"We use education to coordinate the correct response. You don't want to have to shut down highways and evacuate hospitals if things can be managed, and the flip side of that is you don't want to do not enough if more mitigation is needed," explains Holloway.

"By providing a monitored safe environment in which a student can actually interact with Hazardous Materials, learn how it will react to varying conditions, and strategically build on the students' respect and confidence, they leave better equipped to handle potential incidents in their home communities while understanding their limitations," Wagner said.

On top of training at a world-renowned training facility, the Propane Council of Texas is once again privileged to host instructors with both emergency response and propane backgrounds. Having instructors who have served in the fire service 30+ years and currently work in the propane industry is a plus.

"Great training. The amount of experience of the instructors was impressive," said Tracy Wells, Gas Equipment Company.

The class was not just designed for a learning experience for firefighers. "As with any job complacency is bred from familiarity. The more industry interacts with propane successfully, the less likely they are to consider it a hazardous material. When we deal with small leaks, release product intentionally during container filling, purge excess product from liquid or vapor piping, and / or vapor purge containers, we build confidence in handing our product. Fortunately, propane is very safe when handled properly and is highly unlikely to result in a fire or explosion, but they can happen," said Wagner when asked why it is important for propane industry to attend.

"This training level-sets our industry and reminds our people of the risks associated with an incident. It outlines clear delin-

eation between when the industry can and should handle and what should be left to the professionals. It is our hope that through the education of our industry personnel in emergency response, they will not become emergency responders, but instead skilled support personnel who can reliably assist our emergency response community should an unfortunate incident occur," Wagner said.

New Training Prop Debuted

After 34 years in the fire service, a passion project came to fruition this past September when Mark Holloway of AmeriGas, ProCOT's lead Propane Emergencies instructor, got to debut a new training prop, a working walk-in transport trailer. The trailer is equipped with modern day safety features and has working hydraulics, pump, piping and valves, as well as the safety gate system and product release intervention component (BASE unit). The trailer has working roll-stability, as well as anti-lock braking. It will have LPG hoses to demonstrate additionally.

"Open the door. Open their minds. They go inside the trailer and get to walk through the vessel. The prop provides something they can touch and see, and it makes the training memorable," Holloway said.

Fire Departments In Attendance
Austonio Volunteer Fire Department
Beech Grove Volunteer Fire Department
Brazos County Precinct 4 VFD
Burkburnett Fire Department
Danbury Volunteer Fire Department
Dimmit County Volunteer Fire Department
Donna Fire Department
Gainesville Fire Department
Ivanhoe VFD
Jasper VFD
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Kyle Fire Department
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Porter Fire Dept
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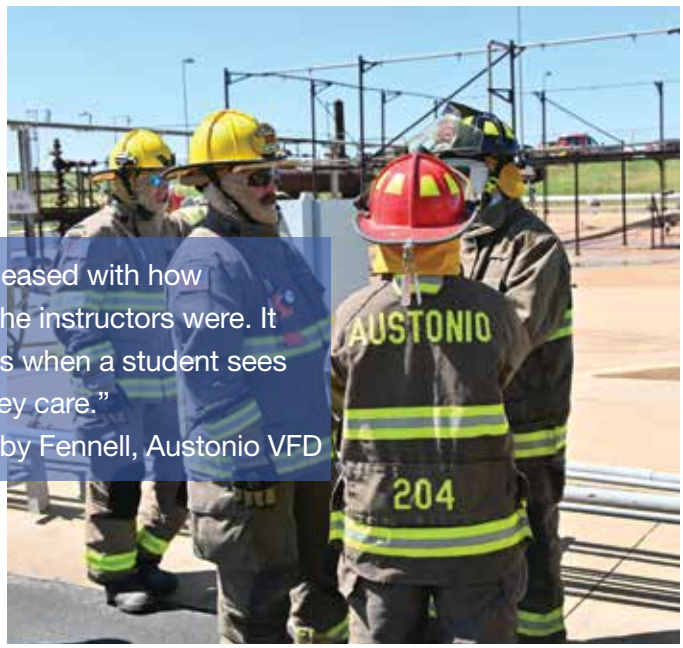
Shiro Volunteer Fire Department
Tierra Linda VFD
Tigertown VFD
Tioga VFD
White Oak VFD

Thank you to our Instructors
Lead Instructor
Mark Holloway, AmeriGas

Instructors
Christopher Wagner, AmeriGas / Fire Department
Richard Gilbert TPGA Sr. Technical Director
Rex Havron, Cortland Energy & Needville Volunteer Fire Department
David Vire Railroad Commission of Texas
Marcus Malbroux AmeriGas Propane
Scott Strait Harris County ESD 48
Mark Allen Holloway Harris County ESD 48
Everett Holloway Houston Fire Department
Jason Ingram, Parker County ESD # 1
David Pruitt, Parker County ESD # 1

"I loved that it was engaging, funny, lively and knowledgeable."
-Tracy Gunderson, Nordheim VFD

"This was a very well prepared and executed class from classroom to field training. Thank you!"
- Jeremy Roesler, Shiro VFD



"I was very pleased with how enthusiastic the instructors were. It certainly helps when a student sees how much they care."
-Bobby Fennell, Austonio VFD

Thank you

A special thank you to Visit College Station for sponsoring meals for our emergency response training.

Building Relationships With Fire Departments

By Richard Gilbert

The training was not only meant for emergency responders, but also the propane industry. The class is designed as a relationship builder between fire service and the propane industry. One thing reiterated throughout the two-day training was not to wait until an incident occurs to develop a relationship with the local responding fire department. As one instructor stated, "3 a.m. and standing on the side of the highway next to an overturned bobtail is not the time for your first introduction to the fire department!"

Developing a positive relationship with your local emergency responders is extremely easy, but it takes a little planning. First, you must determine which department has jurisdiction for the response. Some municipalities do not allow their city departments to travel outside the city limits, while others allow a response within a designated area. You may need to develop a working relationship with multiple fire departments if you have multiple bulk storages.

The one source of information as to which fire departments respond to a specific area is the County Emergency Management Coordinator. This person is usually officed within the County Judges' organization and can tell you which fire department will respond to a specific area. Most counties have developed response maps for areas within their county. Some counties have designated a particular fire department as the hazardous materials response unit for the entire county. The Emergency Management Coordinator will have all this information.

Once you have determined the responding fire department, you should meet with the fire chief and arrange for a walk-through inspection of your facility or trucks. You can take this opportunity to show them the remote shut-down capabilities of your storage or your trucks, the various safety features such as internal valves, excess flow valves, and self-closing spring-actuated relief valves. You can point out avenues of approach and where to set up their trucks.

Many fire departments have mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments, and a specific type of call will automatically trigger a mutual aid alert. Find out if this is the case for a call at your facility and, if so, invite the responding neighboring departments to your training.

80% of all fire departments in Texas are volunteers. Both volunteer and paid departments are trained to a specific level of competency. Both groups are certified but by different certification agencies. Both groups require continuing education. Paid departments usually can schedule their training during normal work hours but remember that they plan 2 or 3 shifts a day, so you may need to repeat the training over several days. Volunteer departments usually perform their training on weeknights. To ensure a good turnout for your training, you may consider providing dinner.

New Propane Emergencies OnDemand Training Series Goes Live

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) have been working together for years to update one of the propane industry's most successful safety programs, Propane Emergencies.

"The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has been committed to establishing strong partnerships between first responders and various industries to ensure that safe, effective operations occur on all emergency incidents. As part of this commitment, members of the IAFC Hazardous Materials Committee and IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section have partnered with the Propane Education Research Council (PERC) to establish a committee to build a certification program for propane response. In addition, many incidents have occurred involving first responders and the propane industry that have stressed the need for responders and industry specialists to appropriately communicate with each other on the scene and understand each other's needs," said the International Association Fire Chiefs in a recent article on their partnership with PERC.

The updated version will add a certification that allows the program to be an accredited part of required hazmat training for first responders at the awareness, operations and technician levels.

Last updated in 2012, the revised 2022-2023 program, which will launch in phases, uses new online modules to ensure that first responders and propane industry members have learned the necessary skills to respond to and work together on properly mitigating propane incidents.

"Our longstanding relationship with the IAFC has led to this update of the very successful Propane Emergencies curriculum that will address new technology and applications," noted Eric Kuster, PERC's senior vice president of safety, education and compliance.

"A positive relationship between industry and first responders is critical during any type of propane emergency. Access to the same training programs by propane professionals and responders will continue to improve that relationship and hone insight and skills for anyone who is involved with these types of events," said Christopher Wagner, Chair of the Safety & Technical Training Working Group of the PERC Advisory Committee and 36-year fire service veteran.

Two of the three parts to the program are online courses: *Propane Awareness for Specialty Employees* and *Propane Operations for Specialty Employees*. The third part of the program is the instructor led in-person training.

The first of the updated three-part Propane Emergencies series, Propane Awareness Program, is now available in The PERC Online Learning Center OnDemand on *propane.com*, as well as in the IAFC Academy the IAFC's training portal at *https://www.iafcacademy.org/*. The first module is 2.5 hours.

The course provides foundational knowledge to recognize fundamental propane characteristics, risks, regulations, safety and indications of potential propane-related emergencies. It also prepares individuals who are likely to witness or discover a propane release to initiate the appropriate emergency response sequence based on their training and notify the proper authorities of the release.

Propane Awareness online module include:

- Lesson 1: Introduction & Lesson 1: Physical Properties, Benefits, and Risks of Propane
- Lesson 2: Introduction to Propane Regulations and Standards
- Lesson 3: Propane Containers
- Lesson 4: Introduction to Propane Emergencies and Incident Response
- Lesson 5: Introduction to Hazard and Risk Evaluation

Propane Awareness Final Assessment

A study guide is also available to download to use while you are taking the course.

"The new curriculum will be much more succinct. The intent is to teach what is important for an emergency responder and not regurgitate large portions of CETP that are unnecessary for the average emergency responder. The program will also dive much deeper in some of the known areas of FD weakness, such as air monitoring, vapor dispersion, etc. The new program will be set up in a staged approach utilizing baseline curriculum that will be available through LMS based learning and in person instruction focused on Awareness, Defensive and Offensive certifications. In addition to this there will be specific training modules geared towards industry and how industry can support emergency services in an incident," Wagner said.

PERC will continue to launch additional components of the training in the coming months with the full program to be live by early 2023.

Once fully rolled out, the training will be followed by an eight-hour, instructor-led classroom session for firefighters to put into practice what was learned. There will be handouts, tests, worksheets and other resources, but likely it will not be contained in a book format as it is today.

At the completion of both online training and the instructor led training, firefighter students will be eligible to test using the online testing center certified by IAFC as part of the program meeting the Pro Board requirements for certification. ProBoard is national accreditation program used by firefighters.

"This process will ensure that first responder and industry specialists have learned the necessary skills to respond and work together on mitigating a propane incident properly," said the IAFC in the article about their partnership with PERC.

"No one plans to have an incident, but when one does happen, emergency responders will be better equipped to handle the incident in partnership with industry," Wagner said.

In addition to partnering with PERC to release the Propane Emergencies online training series, the IAFC is producing monthly articles to their members on propane emergency response topics.

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Plano Unveils New Fire Training Facility Using Clean Burning Propane

This fall, Plano, a city of nearly 300,000 residents and part of the Dallas metroplex, unveiled its new state-of-the-art $15 million Plano Fire-Rescue training facility. "The new facility allows firefighters to mimic real emergencies, rescue operations, and buildings found in the city," a recent Community Impact News article stated.

The facility uses propane for its burn props for their live fire training. They currently have three different large props: a two-story home, a six-story high rise, and a multi-family apartment.

Within those structures, they can practice different scenarios like kitchen fires, bed fires, a car fire in a garage, or even use the car as a stand-alone prop with a remote-controlled car fire, all simulated with propane.

"The biggest reason we chose propane is that it is much cleaner, burns more cleanly, and you do not have the methane issue that you get when using natural gas. That is one of the most important things, the clean burn. When you are training guys all day, propane is repeatable, and you are not exposing our members to carcinogens over and over all day," said Andy Lane with the Plano Fire Rescue Training Center.

Live-fire training facilities are either designated as Class A or Class B by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Class A is highly regulated and uses ordinary materials like particle board, hay, and other materials for the burns. It releases a lot of smoke.

Since propane burns more cleanly, the training facility will use theatrical vapor smoke to try to mimic the smoke from real fire situations, .

Not only did propane help them meet their Class B facility requirements, but the Plano-Fire Rescue Training Center went with Class B for environmental respect to neighbors and homes, according to Lane.

Environmentally friendly was not the only reason propane was chosen to fuel the training props. Lane, a former hazmat technician, said, "Propane hands down was at the top at checking all the boxes from a safety perspective."

Now, 300 Plano fire personnel will receive multiple live fire training throughout the year, as well as the new recruit classes that start in 2023.

Additionally, Plano Fire-Rescue is approved for additional props in 2023 and will gradually add a prop here and there and phase in more props in the future.

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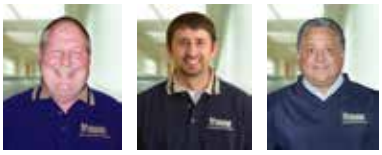

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What is the Little Orange Book in Your Glove Compartment?

The Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) provides first responders with a go-to manual to help deal with hazmat transportation accidents during the critical first 30 minutes.

The ERG tells first responders how to quickly identify a hazardous material, its health and safety risks, and what action they should take at an incident.

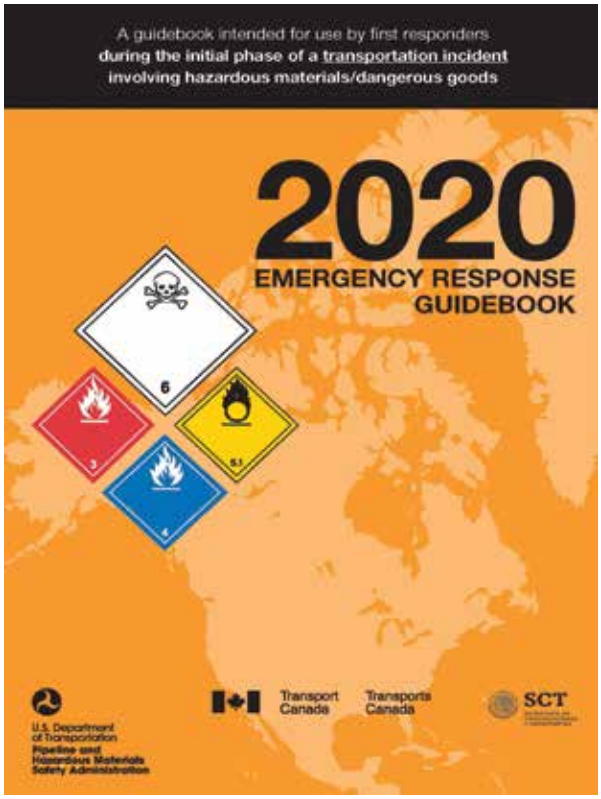
"To increase the likelihood that emergency response information will be available to first responders at the scene of a hazardous materials incident, the Hazardous Materials Regulations require that emergency response information accompany most shipments of hazardous materials," writes Truckinginfo.com in an online article, the Purpose of the Emergency Response Guidebook.

Those in the propane industry use it to meet the requirements of 49 CFR 172.602 of the Hazardous Material Regulations (HMR), and we carry them in our glove compartments of our bobtails and transports.

"Carriers that transport hazardous materials must maintain the emergency response information the same as they do shipping papers. The emergency response information must be readily available to, and recognizable by, authorities in the event of an incident or inspection. Although not the original intended use for the ERG, keeping an ERG with the hazmat shipping papers is an easy way to comply with the emergency response information requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations," Truckinginfo.com goes to say in its online article, the Purpose of the Emergency Response Guidebook.

The ERG is so widely recognized and used that the Propane Council of Texas uses it as part of their Propane Emergencies on where to find critical propane emergency response information and how to use the guide in general.

For those who do not know how to use the guide, one of the first pages in the book is a quick reference flowchart helping emergency responders to navigate the guide that contains hundreds of hazardous materials in it.



The ERG is divided into six color-coded sections (white, yellow, blue, orange, green, and another white section).

The first section of the ERG, the initial **White Pages** include:

- Shipping paper guidance
- How to use the guidebook
- General guidance for responding to any hazardous material incident
- Rudimentary information on the hazard classification system and the correlating placards and labels
- How to identify transport vehicle types
- Pipeline safety information and resources

The **Yellow Section** lists products in order of its assigned 4-digit ID number/UN/NA number e.g. 1075 for propane and identifies the appropriate guide number to reference in the Orange Section.

The **Blue Section** list products in alphabetical order of its name (e.g. liquefied petroleum gas) and also identifies the appropriate guide number to reference in the Orange Section.

The **Orange Section** are the response guides. Propane is found in Guide 115. Each of the guides provides safety recommendations and directions on how to proceed during the initial response phase within the first 30 minutes of the incident. It includes information on potential hazards, health, protective clothing, evacuation and first aid.

The **Green Section** includes initial evacuation or shelter in place distances (protective action distances) for spills of materials that are Toxic-by-Inhalation (TIH). Only products that are highlighted in green in the Yellow and Blue Sections are included in the Green Section. Propane is not included in this section.

The final section, the second **White Section** at the back of the ERG includes:

- ERG User's Guide
- Emergency responder protective clothing and equipment
- Decontamination
- Fire and spill control
- BLEVE and Heat Induced Tear (HIT)
- Terrorist use of chemicals
- Glossary of terms used in the ERG

Propane providers can order the most current version (2020) of the ERG from Propane Service Corporation (PSC) at *www.propaneservicecorporation.com*.

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By Texas for Texas

What is Duty to Warn? A duty to warn is a concept that arises in the law of torts in a number of circumstances, indicating that a party will be held liable for injuries caused to another, where the party had the opportunity to warn the other of a hazard and failed to do so.

A lawsuit by a party injured by a product, where the manufacturer failed to properly warn, is usually brought as a "negligence" action.

How Can My Company Comply?
There are numerous ways that you can provide your customers with product warnings. This could be in the form of monthly bill stuffers, warning labels, safety calendars, newsletters, door hangers, on the back of meter tickets as well as through annual comprehensive mailing like the Propane Council of Texas' Duty to Warn Safety Mailing Program.

About the Texas Duty to Warn Propane Safety Mailing Program
The Propane Council of Texas' Duty to Warn Safety Mailing Program is a service-based project that uses a Texas specific comprehensive safety brochure with scratch n' sniff that covers numerous important safety topics including *how to detect propane's odor, what to do if you smell gas, carbon monoxide safety, lighting pilots, appliance maintenance, running out of gas.*

How does it work?
1. Texas propane retailers go to **www.procot.org/dutytowarn**

2. Complete the online registration form & upload your Texas propane customer mailing list to the form.

3. Registration package is automatically sent to a third-party mail house.

4. You will receive email confirmation as soon as your registration is received.

5. Your company name is ink jetted on to the Texas safety mailer.

6. The safety mailer is sent to your Texas customers within 30 days by non-profit bulk mail.

7. Once mailed and payment is received, you will receive a postage receipt and notarized affidavit from the mail house that your mailing is complete.

What does it cost?
The biggest savings to you is there is no cost for the mailed brochure and the Council covers postage to TX customers.

Each Texas retailer participant is responsible for two pass-through fees. You, the retailer, are only responsible for a small *$35 fulfillment flat fee* and *8.5 cents list processing fee per address*.

deadline

While supplies last or by **Friday, December 2, 2022**, whichever comes first.

questions

1-800-325-7427 info@propanecounciloftexas.org

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2022 Hiring Red, White & You

Hiring Red, White & You! is a statewide hiring event that connects veterans, transitioning military members, and military spouses to employers across Texas. Save the date! This year's events will be conducted from November 1-18. Please look for the county you reside in for the correct date and time of this year's Hiring Red, White, and You!

November 3, 2022

Coastal Bend
Richard Regional Fairgrounds
Robstown TX
9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Concho Valley
McNease Convention Center
San Angelo, TX
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Deep East Texas
CL Simon Recreation Center
Nacogdoches, TX

Texoma
Eisenhower Business Center
Denison, Texas
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

West Central Texas
Taylor County Expo Center
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

November 4, 2022

Central Texas
Fort Hood, Texas
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

November 9, 2022

Southeast Texas
Beaumont Event Centre
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

November 10, 2022

Alamo
Freeman Coliseaum Expo Hall
San Antonio Texas
9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Brazos Valley
Bryan/Brenham
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Capital Area
Austin, TX
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dallas
Gilley's Dallas
Dallas, TX
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

East Texas (Tyler and Longview)
UT Tyler Ornelas Center
University of Texas at Tyler
Tyler, TX
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Golden Crescent
Victoria College Emerging Technology Complex
Victoria, TX
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gulf Coast
Various Locations

Heart of Texas
Waco Convention Center
Waco, TX
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lower Rio Grande Valley
Bert Ogden Arena
Edinburg, TX
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Middle Rio Grande
Eagle Pass International
Trade Center (ITC)
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

North Central
Plano Event Center
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

North Texas
Bill Bartley YMCA
Wichita Falls, TX
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Northeast Texas
Texarkana Convention Center
Texarkana TX
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Panhandle
Workforce Solutions Panhandle
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Permian Basin
MCM ELEGANTÉ Hotel
Odessa, TX
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rural Capital
Williamson County: Round Rock Sports Center
Hays County: City of San Marcos Conference Center at the Embassy Suites

South Plains
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
Lubbock, Texas
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

South Texas
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tarrant
Globe Life Field
Arlington, TX
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

November 15, 2022

Borderplex
El Paso County Coliseum
El Paso, TX
9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

To find out more about each of the events, please visit https://www.twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you and download the spreadsheet with event details.

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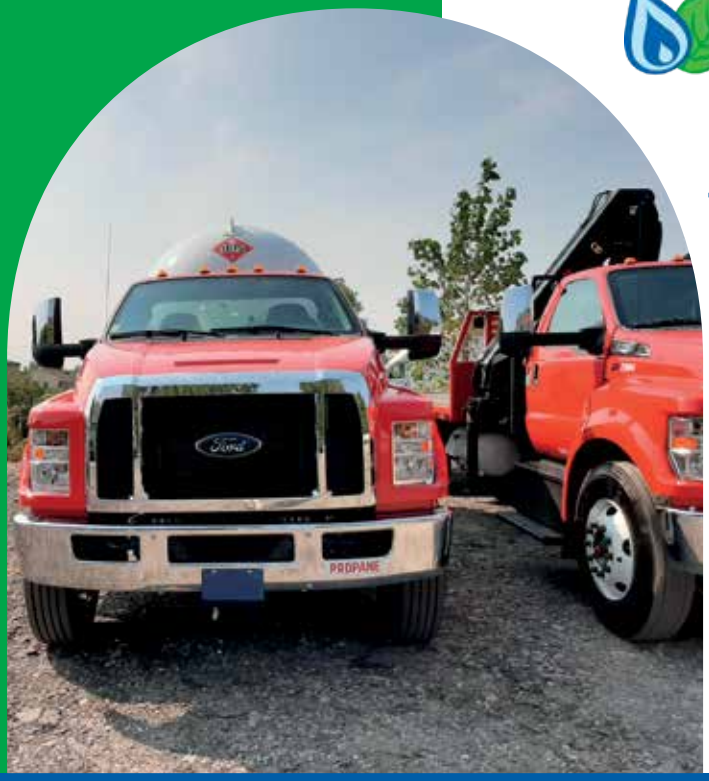

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People in Propane

Benjamin Nussdorf has joined NPGA as General Counsel and Vice President of Regulatory and Industry Affairs. Ben has spent 15 years as an attorney in the liquid fuels sector at federal agencies in Washington, DC. He started at the Department of Interior (DOI), including serving as a senior policy analyst for fossil energy, renewable energy, and hydraulic fracturing regulations. He then spent seven years as a senior regulatory advisor in the Office of Oil and Natural Gas within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Most recently, he served in the Office of General Counsel at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). He also teaches oil and gas law as an adjunct professor at three DC area law schools and has substantial knowledge in the area of pipeline supply and logistics.

Ben's portfolio will include overseeing all legal and regulatory affairs at NPGA as well as industry affairs such as supply & logistics and the ACE program. Ben is based in DC and began with NPGA on October 12, 2022.

Don't Forget! PERC Offering Up to $6,000 Incentive Available to Manufactured Housing Retailers

A program administer by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) will provide funding to a manufactured housing retailer, up to $6,000 for each sales center location, to install "live burn" model homes containing propane appliances. The program will cover any increase in the cost of the model home going from an electric model to propane, as well as the cost to convert appliances, install the propane system, and perform safety checks. Each Propane Provider is limited to two sales centers and a maximum of $12,000 through this program.

The program covers any home upgrades and incremental cost increase to the housing retailer, including the installation cost of the propane system.

The sales centers must install a propane cooktop and a heating appliance, such as a furnace or fireplace, to be eligible. The propane provider and retailer are required to report sales of propane homes on a semi-annual basis for three years.

Propane marketers can learn more and apply on behalf of the manufactured housing retailer at *https://propane.com/about/manufactured-housing-retailer-incentive-program/*.

National Propane Day Features Matt Blashaw

Matt Blashaw, contractor, realtor and co-host of HGTV's "Build it Forward," spoke with over 40 TV and radio outlets across the United States about all the ways propane keeps families comfortable and safe during the winter months.

Just ahead of the first-ever National Propane Day (October 7, 2022), Matt communicated with more than 20 million homeowners about propane's reliability, affordability and versatility as home heating season begins.

He shared simple, smart home maintenance tips like change your air filters and keep air vents clear of snow, ice, and debris. He also had a winter preparedness message for homeowners: call your propane provider to make a plan for winter.

"When I think about winter, that means staying inside more, cooking meals with family, being cozy by a high-performing fireplace or efficient furnace. And you can do all of that with propane, which is why we call it energy for everyone," Blashaw said.

Follow Matt Blashaw on Instagram and be sure to share his propane content on your own social channels for your customers and potential customers to see.

New Study Refutes Claims of Indoor Air Quality Variances in Cooking with Electric, Gas Ranges

A newly released study refutes recent reports that electric ranges have lower cooking emissions than gas models.

"A conclusion that one energy source generates more cooking emissions than the others cannot be made," notes the report from nonprofit research and development company GTI Energy, formerly known as Gas Technology Institute.

GTI researchers conducted cook tests that measured food emissions from electric, natural gas, and propane appliances. The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC)-funded research found that emissions were greater from electric range tops than from propane or natural gas. But the reason for that, researchers believe, is the greater temperature variance of the electrically heated pan rather than the fuel source itself.

Cooking, regardless of energy source used, temporarily reduces air quality in homes. Overall, GTI test results showed cooking emissions were more a function of the cooking vessel and food product cooked than energy source.

The report also supports the critical role that ventilation plays in protecting indoor air quality while cooking.

Read the study at: *https://propane.com/research-development/equipment/residential-cooking-iaq-special-report-cooking-emissions-for-natural-gas-propane-and-electric-range-tops/*.

New Propane Port Tractor Makes U.S. Debut in Texas

Earlier this fall, the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) partnered with German manufacturer MAFI to debut the company's first propane-powered port tractor at the Breakbulk Americas Show, the largest trade event for the project cargo and breakbulk industry at the

George R Brown Convention Center in Houston.

MAFI is a developer and manufacturer of heavy-duty vehicles used to transport cargo and special container chassis at ports throughout the world. This month, the company is showcasing its first propane-powered port tractor on U.S. soil.

The tractor features PSI's CARB-certified .02 NOx 8.8 liter propane engine. This ultra-low NOx, heavy-duty propane engine produces fewer lifecycle emissions in comparison to electric. Propane port tractors are also about one-third the cost of their electric counterparts and, with refueling infrastructure, that's significantly

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less expensive than electric recharging infrastructure.

"This propane port tractor provides the least cost per grams of carbon reduction for ports, and they are commercially available today," Joe Calhoun, director of off-road business development at PERC, said. "With propane, clean energy is accessible to everyone, allowing ports to make meaningful change today by cleaning up their emissions without expensive electric infrastructure."

This is one of the 80+ propane port tractors that have been purchased by Ports America for their operations at the Port of Long Beach.

Modified from its original version in LP Gas magazine

Increase Your Customers Propane Winter Wisdom This Winter

Subscribe Customers to Winter 2022 Edition of *Propane Living*

Want to get seasonal propane information out to your propane customers? Over 125,000 Texas consumers receive *Propane Living* each quarter. Propane retailers use

the *Propane Living* newsletter from the Propane Council of Texas to engage their customers, enlighten them on the many advantages of propane home applications, remind them of seasonal propane safety tips, as well as provide them updates on programs like the Texas Saves with Propane Appliance Rebate Program.

You too can sign up to have the *Propane Living* newsletter sent to your customer base. It is easy. Go to the Propane Council of Texas' homepage at *https://www.propanecounciloftexas.org/propaneliving* to register.

- You can choose to upload a mailing list and the Council mails it for you, as well as covers the postage; or
- You can choose a quantity and we can ship in bulk to your office, and you hand out at your location, on bobtail routes or use as a bill stuffer. Shipping is FREE.

The newsletter is mailed in partnership with the Propane Council of Texas. *Your cost*. There is $49 fulfillment fee per quarter as well as less four cent per newsletter cost to imprint your name or logo on the outside of the newsletter as a partner.

Deadline to subscribe and to receive mailing lists is **November 29, 2022**.

Monthly Autogas Grant Update

2022 is replete with available grants. Funding opportunities are available on the state and federal level. Grants are available for light duty trucks, school buses, bobtails and other medium duty vehicles.

Grants are open throughout the year, and every month in Texas Propane magazine in 2022 we will be sharing grant availability as programs open and close.

Available Grants (at time of printing):

» Knowledge and experience to explore the feasibility
» Designed with your current and future goals in mind
» Single source, turn-key solution for your entire project
» Keep your project on time and budget
» Preventative maintenance plans available!

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• TCEQ Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP) OPEN

• TCEQ Rebate Grant Program OPEN

• TCEQ Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program OPEN

Deadline November 22, 2022

• TCEQ Statewide Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase Program OPEN

Deadline January 7, 2023

Have questions on avaliable grants but do not know what grant is right for you or your fleet customers? You can contact the Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT) at *info@propanecounciloftexas.org* or (800)325-7427.

$34 Million Available for Propane Medium to Heavy Duty Vehicles Apply Now. Buy Later.

$34 million is available first come, first serve from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to replace MY 2007 or older operational gasoline and diesel vehicles with new low-emission dedicated propane vehicles under the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP).

The deadline to reserve funds is March 31, 2023.

Upon approval from TCEQ, you have up until April 30, 2025, before you have to purchase the new dedicated propane medium duty to heavy duty vehicle, which can be anything from a three-quarter ton truck to bobtail to school bus.

Eligible counties: Anderson, Aransas, Atascosa, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chambers, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Dewitt, Duval, El Paso, Ellis, Falls, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Frio, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Howard, Hunt, Hutchison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Johnson, Karnes, Kaufman, La Salle, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, Medina, McLennan, McMullen, Milam, Montgomery, Navarro, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Parker, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, San Patricio, Smith, Tarrant, Titus, Travis, Upshur, Victoria, Walker, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Williamson, Wilson & Wise.

A sales quote will be required to reserve funds and apply. Model year applied for, and model year purchased can change as long as the emissions are the same or better.

Grant amount. The older and higher emitting the old vehicle or bus and the higher the GVWR, the bigger the payout.

TNGVGP Grant documents, including the Request for Grant Applications and Project Application, may be found on the TNGVGP webpage at *https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/tngvgp.html*.

Have questions, need a grant quote and grant writing assistance, please contact the Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT) at (800)325-7427 or send us an email at *info@propanecounciloftexas.org*.

Biden-Harris Administration Will Double Clean School Bus Rebate Awards to Nearly $1 Billion

The U.S. EPA announced it would nearly double the funding awarded for

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1. Unscrew and remove the plastic cap.
2. Screw on the new Lock America cap.
3. Snap on the new Lock America locking Cap.

POLock

1. Disconnect the gas line.
2. Screw in the new Lock America valve plug.
3. Snap on the new Lock America locking cap.

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clean school buses this year following increased demand, with school districts from all 50 states applying for the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates. This is the first round of funding from the EPA Clean School Bus Program, which President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created with a historic $5 billion investment for low-and zero-emission school buses over the next five years.

In May, EPA had announced the availability of $500 million, but given overwhelming demand from school districts across the country. EPA is nearly doubling the amount of funding that will be awarded to $965 million.

EPA will move swiftly to review applications submitted and expects to issue a robust slate of awards next month. EPA is also designing the next rounds of program funding to launch in the coming months, which will include an ambitious grant competition. Through future rounds of funding, EPA will make available another $1 billion for clean school buses in Fiscal Year 2023.

The rebate application period closed in August with an outstanding response from school districts seeking to purchase electric and low-emission school buses across the country. EPA received around 2,000 applications requesting nearly $4 billion for over 12,000 buses. More than 90 percent of buses requested were for zero-emission electric buses. Nearly 9 percent of applications were for propane buses and 1 percent were for compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

EPA is currently reviewing submitted applications to determine eligibility and make final selections. EPA anticipates notifying rebate applicants of their selection status in October 2022. Once notified, selected school districts can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure.

Rebate selectees will need to submit Payment Request Forms with purchase orders demonstrating they have ordered new buses and eligible infrastructure. After the selectees submit the proper forms, they will be eligible to receive rebate funds.

This is the first of several funding opportunities for the multi-year Clean School Bus Program.

EPA anticipates running both a grant competition and another rebate program in 2023. The agency encourages school districts not selected in the first round of rebates – and those that did not apply this funding cycle – to participate in future rounds.

November 7-9, 2022 International LPG Summit JW Marriott, Miami, Florida, USA

The 27th Annual International LPG Summit will bring together global players operating within the LPG and Petrochemical markets. This event builds off the success of the International LPG Conference formerly offered by IHS Markit, now a part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This year's program themes revolve specifically around the United States and Latin American markets, and will provide deep dives and perspectives around pricing, policy, supply/demand, transportation and more.

Learn more & register at *https://plattsinfo.spglobal.com/international-lpg-summit.html.*

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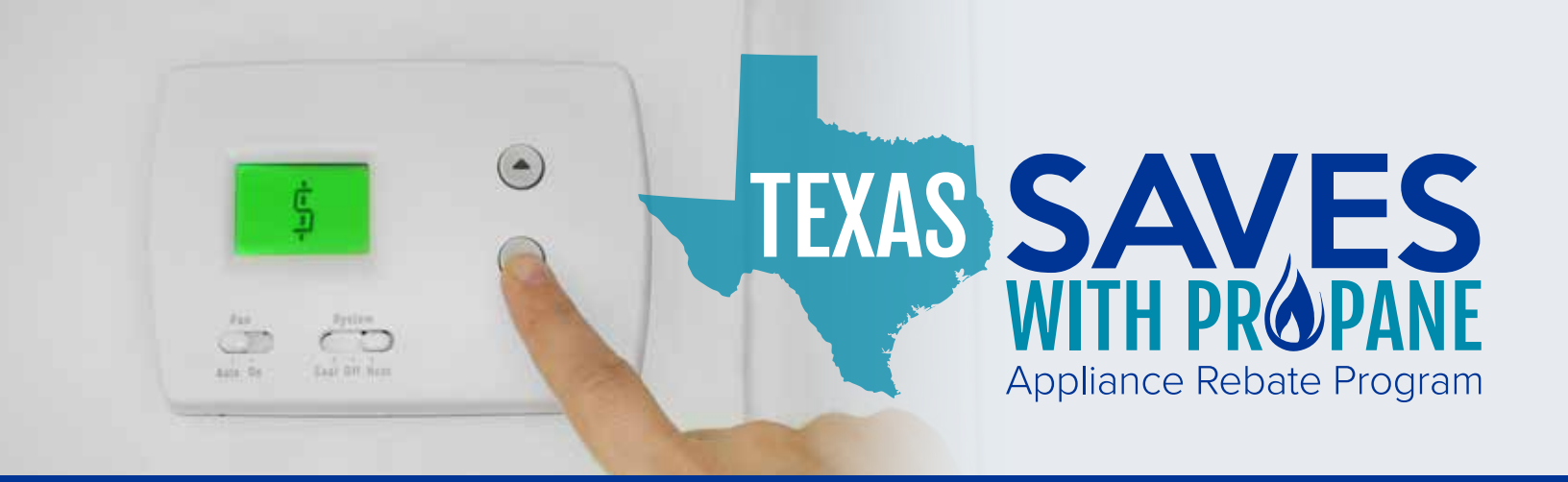

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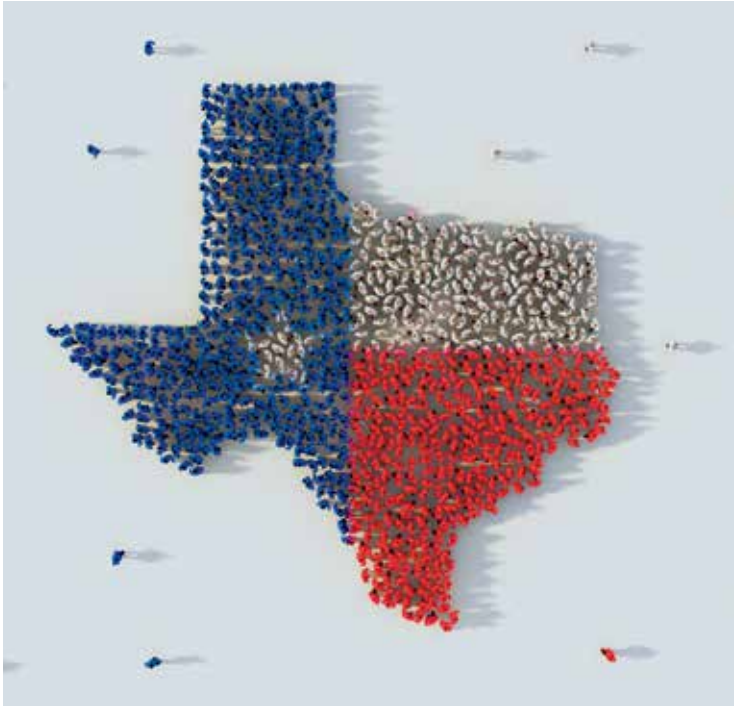

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TPGA Texas Propane Gas Association

Calendar

NOVEMBER

3-4
Fall Benchmarking Council Meeting
Scottsdale, AZ

7-9
International LPG Summit
Miami, Fl

8-9
PERC Council Meeting
Destin, FL

14
LPG Week 2022
New Delhi, India

24 -25
TPGA & PSC Office Closed for Thanksgiving

29
Propane Living Winter Deadline

30
Tech School Grant Program Deadline

DECEMBER

2
Duty to Warn Deadline

6
NPGA/PERC State Leadership Summit
Washington, DC

23 & 26
TPGA & PSC Office Closed for Christmas

JANUARY

2
TPGA & PSC Office Closed for New Year's Day

January 30 - Feb 1
NPGA Winter Meeting
New Orleans, LA

FEBRUARY

8
PERC Council Meeting
Virtual

February 28- March 1
National Propane Education & Training Conference
Orlando, Fla.

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Propane Gas Fuels Special Effects on Chicago Fire TV Series

"Chicago Fire" celebrates 200 episodes in 2021
Wolf Entertainment

Chicago Fire, a People's Choice nominated drama airing exclusively on NBC and Peacock that has been on the air for ten years and is part of the Chicago franchise, follows both the professional and personal lives of its fictional firefighters, paramedics and rescue personnel.

While characters roll off and on with the seasons, one of the most important, and everlasting, aspects of the show is fire (see the show title). Because that's what they do—respond to fire.

You won't be surprised that the fire these characters respond to is primarily fueled by propane at the direction of special effects coordinator and pyrotechnic John Milinac.

"Whether interior or exterior, in consultation with its art department, "Chicago Fire's" flames are directed like a conductor leading an orchestra: where are they needed, what is the duration of the burn, to what degree will the material used burn? ," states *Variety* in a recent article about the show.

"When we bring fires into that environment, with our propane fire bars in various places, everybody in there understands that the fire is controlled and nothing else can burn in that space, except for what we have decided can burn," said Milinac in an article on Cheatsheet.com. "So when we say 'fire out,' and turn off our propane valves, the fire literally does go out."

In the *Variety* article, Milinac provided an example of a living room set where three of the four walls were on fire, along with fireballs coming out of a vent. That steel-studded set included hidden fire pipes behind drywall that allowed his team "a mechanical way of controlling flame like a barbecue and its gas line."

"Those operators are controlling a manifold of every single flame, whether it is three or 25 fires, with numbers assigned to every pipe and with everyone—director, camera, DPs—agreeing on what are the perfect levels of value for each pipe and height for each flame" the *Variety* article goes on to report.

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