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June 2024

E-Newsletter

Happy Independence Day!

Since it's fresh, we want to thank everyone who attended the APGA/LPGA annual summer convention this past week in Pensacola Beach! This event is not possible without YOU! There will be more on this wonderful event in next month's issue.

The transition from CETP to PEP — the PERC Education Program — is underway and we don't want you to miss out on important updates regarding new learning paths, trainings, and other changes that will impact you and your employees. That's why PERC is holding webinars throughout the year to help keep you informed. Register for PERC's next webinar on July 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. CT. The webinar will cover everything you need to know about PEP replacement learning paths from the current CETP courses, as well as a Q&A session to address any questions about these changes.

Camping season is here, and PERC has pulled together information about how on-demand tankless water heaters, powered by propane, are the answer to water heating needs in recreational facilities nationwide like campgrounds and summer camps. Propane tankless water heaters can be added to cabins, laundry rooms, restrooms, kitchens, and other facilities that need on-demand hot water. Tankless water heaters are especially beneficial for remote camping facilities with a large footprint. Read more about the benefits of using tankless water heaters powered by propane from our friends at PERC.

Our office will be closed next week on Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day. We hope everyone has a happy and safe July 4th holiday!



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2024 Calendar of Events

July 11, 10:00 am (CT): PERC Education Program (PEP) Webinar-Register here.

September 2024: Third Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Date and Location TBD.

November 7-8: State Leadership Summit, Washington, DC.

December 15: NPGF Scholarship Applications Open.

December 2024: Fourth Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, Natchitoches, LA-Date TBD.

The State Taxman

Businesses decide to locate in different states for different reasons. One such reason, however, is the aggregate tax burden imposed by a state government. NPGA is composed of businesses that are subject to both individual income and state corporate taxes, depending on their business model (e.g., sole proprietorship, limited liability company, corporation).

At the state level, individual income and corporate tax rates vary greatly from place to place. Some states, such as Florida and Texas do not levy a tax on individual incomes; while others, including California (13.30%) and New York (10.90%) tax personal income at very high rates. This same state disparity exists when it comes to the imposition of corporate taxes. South Dakota and Wyoming, for example, do not tax corporate income. In contrast, other states, including Illinois (9.50%) and Minnesota (9.80%) have high corporate tax rates.

For businesses in the propane industry, excessively high state tax burdens can make it harder to operate a successful enterprise, as more money goes to tax coffers instead of company operations. If you're interested to learn more about the tax structure in your state, the Tax Foundation has applicable data sets detailing personal income and corporate taxes on a state by state basis.

Fast Facts:

Six states do not levy a tax on corporate income

Minnesota has the highest corporate tax rate at 9.80%

Eight states lack a state income tax (excluding capital gains taxes)

California has the highest individual state income tax rate at 13.30%

NPGA will continue to monitor state tax policy and determine its potential impact on the propane industry. For more information, contact NPGA's Director of State Affairs, Jacob Peterson, at jpeterson@npga.org.

Propane Days and NPGA Annual Meeting

NPGA hosted Propane Days and its Annual Meeting and Summer Board of Directors Meeting June 2-5. Here are just a few highlights from the jam-packed time in Washington, DC:

Propane Days

NPGA members and staff met with over 220 offices across the House and Senate. The successful day concluded with a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building with Members of Congress and their staff in attendance.

LPGA's summary for propane days included meetings with all eight of our congressional offices. In addition to the meetings, our team was invited to a photo op on the Speaker's balcony with Speaker Mike Johnson and participated in a night tour of the US Capitol given by Congressman Garrett Graves. Our Executive Director Randy Hayden and LPGA President and State Director Kenny Lucero personally met with Congresswoman Julia Letlow and Congressman Garrett Graves regarding issues important to the propane industry. Randy and Kenny also met individually with staffers in the following offices: Senator John Kennedy, Senator Bill Cassidy, Congressman Steve Scalise, Congressman Troy Carter, Congressman Clay Higgins, and Speaker Mike Johnson. All in all, it was another successful Propane Days for team Louisiana.

Annual Meeting and Summer Board of Directors Meeting

- Jeff Stewart passed the gavel to Tom Van Buren, the new Chair of the Board of Directors.
- PropanePAC hosted a well-attended reception honoring its donors at President Lincoln's Cottage where guests enjoyed a tour of the President's historic summer home.
- Scott Tranter, Director of Data Science at Decision Desk HQ, presented an engaging overview of the upcoming Presidential election and other key races using information from real-time race calls and polling data. Tranter offered potential scenarios of election results and then discussed the possible effects on the propane industry, citing which outcomes would be most favorable.
- Stephanie Hennen of Lakes Gas welcomed Andrew Vogl of Ray Murray Inc. as the new PAC Steering Committee Chair for the upcoming year.
- Several members received awards and citations:
 - o Immediate Past Chair Jeff Stewart awarded Chair's citations to two individuals who exemplify excellence in

the propane industry: Dan Binning, Former Executive Director of the Colorado and New Mexico Propane Gas Associations, and Bruce Swiecicki, NPGA Vice President & Chief Technical Officer.

o The Scholarship Committee honored Rosie Buschur of McMahan's Bottle Gas with the 2024 NPGF Outstanding Service Award. This award is presented to a committee member in recognition of extraordinary service and dedication to the Scholarship Foundation and the children of our industry.

o NPGA awarded the State Director of the Year Award to Zoe Williams of Hawaii.

o Charmin Heimel of the Colorado Propane Marketing Company in Monument, Colorado and Rob Upton of Blue Flame Gas Inc. in Pueblo West, Colorado both received the Safety Award.



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2024 NPGF Scholarship Recipients Announced

The National Propane Gas Foundation (NPGF) is delighted to announce the 2024 scholarship recipients. NPGF awarded 114 scholarships for a total of \$159,000 – the most awards and highest total dollar amount ever. These accomplished students represent 32 states and 65 NPGA member companies. Recipients are attending two- and four-year schools across the country and pursuing an exciting range of programs. See a complete list of all 114 award recipients and read Scholarship Program updates in the annual Transcripts newsletter. Congratulations to these students and their families! *See below for the winners of the Marie Daniels Memorial Scholarship which are the two LPGA scholarships available through NPGF!*



Lauren Meche

Marie Daniels Memorial Scholarship

Hometown: Port Barre, Louisiana

School: University of Louisiana in Lafayette, Louisiana

Year: Sophomore

Major: Early Childhood Education (Grades Pre-K – 3rd)

Parent: Bryce Meche is employed by Reed Gas Propane Company in Opelousas, Louisiana



Xavier Session

Marie Daniels Memorial Scholarship

Hometown: Bossier City, Louisiana

School: Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana

Year: Sophomore

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Parent: Aaron Kelly is employed by Ferrellgas in Bossier City, Louisiana



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Tracy Wells

June is Ideal for Forklift Cylinder Safety Reminders

The safety of customers, employees and the communities that they serve should always be paramount to marketers overseeing the delivery, storage and use of propane to power homes, businesses, fleets and farms.

The material handling industry places an extra focus on forklift safety during the month of June. Throughout the month, manufacturing, warehousing, logistics, and other industries that rely on forklifts are encouraged to review their forklift training and safety guidelines throughout their entire organization.

Since propane forklifts are used all over the country every day, here are a few things to keep in mind when working with propane forklifts and propane cylinders.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that only properly trained personnel operate forklifts. Once certified, operators must:

- Wear personal protective equipment. Contact with liquid propane can damage the eyes and cause frostbite on the skin, so wear safety glasses and proper gloves.
- Inspect the replacement tank before installing it. Look for leaks, dents, gouges, or heavy rust, and check the condition of the O-ring, forklift hose, and fittings for signs of damage.
- Position the tank on the locating pin. This ensures that the pressure relief valve is in the vapor space and that the fuel gauge will read correctly.
- Make sure the tank valve is turned off before making a connection. If the hose coupler is screwed on with an open tank valve, it could leak propane.
- When storing forklift cylinders, there are national fire codes that must be followed.
- Outside propane storage areas must be 20 feet away from any opening into a building – like a door, window, or vent – and in a location that minimizes exposure to physical damage, tampering, or excessive temperature rises.
- Storage areas must have at least one properly sized and rated fire extinguisher.
- Storage areas should never be located near exits or in areas used to reach an exit.

Given propane's prominence in the forklift industry, now is the perfect time for the propane industry to revisit and share safety resources for your forklift customers and employees. Find some time in June to share these PERC's safety resources with your forklift customers to

ensure they're keeping themselves and their crews safe:

- Poster: Send this poster to your customers and encourage them to put it in a high-traffic area to remind everyone about essential safety tips for forklifts.
- Safety Handout: Have your customers distribute this to their entire crew for quick reference.
- Videos: Use these quick animations on your website or social channels.

It's also a great time to remind your employees about the training courses available in The Learning Center related to forklift safety:

- Cylinder Delivery Driver
- Dispensing Propane Safely





Raising Safety Standards

Make The Learning Center at Propane.com your choice for workforce safety training. To recognize National Forklift Safety Day on June 11, start a conversation using PERC's resources, all detailing the safe storage, use, and filling of cylinders. Your customers will thank you for your attention and expert advice.

SAFETY SOCIAL SERIES – MATERIAL HANDLING VIDEOS PACKAGE

Use PERC's Safety Social Series to further promote forklift and material handling safety.



CFI Grant Application Still Open

The Federal Highway Administration has announced the availability of \$1.3 billion through the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program to strategically deploy alternative fueling infrastructure projects (including propane) in urban and rural communities in publicly accessible locations, including downtown areas and local neighborhoods, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

Additionally, more than \$520 million is reserved for some unselected first-round applicants who may now be reconsidered for the current round of funding. FHWA will contact unselected round 1 applicants but please feel free to pass this information along to any entities that applied last year. Previously unselected applicants will need to request via email by July 1, 2024, that FHWA reconsider previously submitted applications.

New applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on August 28, 2024. Eligible applicants include states, local governments, special purpose districts

or public authorities with a transportation function, including port authorities, Indian tribes, and U.S. Territories.

NPGA has compiled a list of every federally-designated Autogas refueling corridor in each state, an FAQ on the program, and letter to send to local and state government entities on NPGA's member dashboard under the Propane Buses tab. Questions? Contact NPGA Director of Regulatory Affairs Kate Gaziano at kgaziano@npga.org.



Heat-Related Illnesses in Outdoor Workers

Record high temperatures have been sweeping across the country recently, posing risks to outdoor workers' health. This Summer has been particularly brutal for outdoor workers in the propane industry including employees who install and paint tanks, deliver cylinders, and bobtail drivers.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health states that heat-related illnesses are the body's response to excessive heat and loss of water and salt, usually through sweating. Heat stroke, a common heat-related illness, is a critical condition in which the body cannot regulate its own temperature, requiring emergency treatment, and can be fatal if treatment is delayed. According to the Centers for Disease Control, heat-related illnesses led to 119,605 emergency room visits in 2023.

It is important for employers, workers, and their coworkers to be aware of the dangers and take these recommendations from NIOSH to prevent heat-related illnesses:

- Limit time in the heat or increase time spent in a cool

area.

- Reduce the physically difficult demands of the job.
- Increase the number of workers per task.
- Provide adequate amounts of cool, potable water near the work area and encourage workers to drink water often.
- Use tools to minimize manual work.
- Train supervisors and coworkers about heat stress and recognizing the signs of heat-related illness.

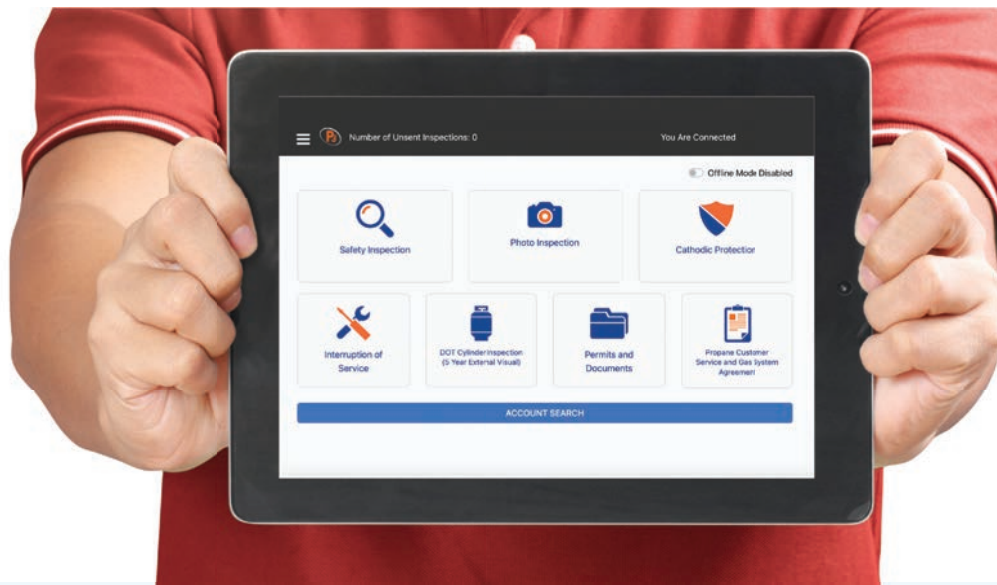
For more information on heat-related illnesses, recommendations, symptoms, and treatment, visit the NIOSH Heat Related Illness webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatrelillness.html>.





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