



Lake County Contractors Association Safety News

April, 2002

Safety Training - Scheduled classes have begun again. Check the enclosed 2002 Safety Training Reservation Form for more information. This year we are not only listing LCCA programs, but the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council's training classes also.

REMEMBER: If you have ten or more (or will pay for 10 students) **we will bring the training to your office**, or a site of your choice, or hold your class at the LCCA Office.

First Aid, CPR, OSHA 10-Hour, Excavation Competent Person, Power Line, Confined Space, Respiratory Safety/Silica, Scaffold User or Competent Person, and much more are available for you. Since the LCCA Safety & Education Fund subsidizes the cost, the price is hard to beat.

Training dates are subject to our instructors' schedules, so if you want a particular date, call Gloria at the LCCA Office as soon as possible.

Thank you to the following LCCA members who have scheduled classes recently:

Pickus Construction & Equipment – 1st Aid/CPR

Alliance Contractors – Powerline Hazards
Confined Space Entry

Jos. J. Henderson & Son – Confined Space Review

Home Towne Electric – Flagger Course

Beware Faulty Fall Protection – Mine Safety Appliances Company (MSA) is asking all users to remove service MSA Surety Sure-Stop shock absorbers, in a fall protection component, manufactured from May through October of 2001. MSA is currently investigating a reported incident in which the MSA Surety Sure-Stop lanyard may have been improperly manufactured. Although it appeared to be functional, the lanyard provided no fall arrest protection to the user. To view the MSA advisory visit the following website:
[www.msanet.com/msanorthamerica/msaunitedstates/notices/01034-02\(notice-signed\).pdf](http://www.msanet.com/msanorthamerica/msaunitedstates/notices/01034-02(notice-signed).pdf)

Overfill Prevention Device Now Required –

Beginning April 1, 2002 you will no longer be able to refill propane tanks if they do not have an Overfill Protection Device (OPD). Check your tanks to avoid loss time.

What is an OPD?

Required by national fire and safety standards, an OPD is a safety feature that helps prevent small propane cylinders from being overfilled.

Why have an OPD?

There are limits on how much propane can be put into a cylinder. A properly filled cylinder will have a vapor space left in the top of the cylinder to allow room for expansion of the liquid with a change in atmospheric temperature. An overfilling prevention device is a secondary means of assuring that cylinders are not overfilled.

What can happen if a cylinder is overfilled?

An overfilled cylinder doesn't have enough space left if the liquid expands when exposed to warmer temperatures. This can cause an increase in cylinder pressure and create potentially hazardous conditions such as:

- The pressure relief valve may open, discharging propane from the cylinder
- Propane liquid could enter the piping system, resulting in higher than normal pressures to appliances.

How does an OPD work?

During the refilling process, a valve inside the cylinder closes when the proper level of propane is reached. Since the OPD currently in use measures the volume of propane in the cylinder, the weight of the propane will vary depending on its temperature. Check the posted information where you purchase propane to determine the net weight of propane in your cylinder.

Will my old cylinder need an OPD valve?

Yes, an OPD must be installed on your old cylinder. If your cylinder is inspected for requalification before April 1, 2002, an OPD-equipped valve will be installed at that time. (All DOT cylinders require periodic requalification to ensure that they are safe for continued use.) Even if your cylinder is not inspected for requalification before April 1, 2002, it must still have an OPD-equipped valve installed on it by that date.

What happens if I don't have an OPD installed on my cylinder?

As of April 1, 2002, cylinders without OPDs cannot be refilled.

How can I tell if a cylinder has an OPD?

There are at least two ways to identify ODP-equipped cylinders. New cylinder wrappers and/or warning labels will include this information. Second most cylinders with OPD have special triangular handwheels with the letters "OPD." (However, some OPDs where produced before the letters on the valve handles and valve bodies were required so check the wrapper or label or ask your propane refiller to identify the type of valve on your cylinder).

someone else's request. The new policy will go into effect on July 1, 2002.

OSHA Issues Compliance Directive for Steel Erection Standard

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued a compliance directive for enforcing the new steel erection standard, which became effective January 18, 2002. The new guidance assists compliance officers in enforcing the new standard. The directive contains a compliance officer guide with inspection tips, definitions with photos, and a Question and Answer chapter, which clarifies certain provisions of the standard.

The directive addresses the standard's key provisions and the "phase-in" of component requirements. OSHA will not apply the component requirements of the new standard to projects where the building permit was obtained before January 18, 2001 or when the steel erection work began on or before September 16, 2001. However, all other requirements will apply.

The compliance directive on policies and procedures for OSHA's steel erections standards for construction can be found on OSHA website. <http://www.osha-slc.gov/index.html>

Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program - Green

is this quarter's color for contractors following the assured equipment grounding conductor program. As of April 1, 2001, contractors should be using **Green** tape when marking cords.

The assured equipment grounding conductor program simply requires you to test new or repaired power tools and extension cords before first use, after any suspected damage, and all electrical tools and cords at the three-month intervals, marking the cords with colored tape to indicate the month tested. In addition, all cords and power tools must be visually inspected before each use, and a written description of the program and test records must be kept on file at each jobsite.

(Article provided by the National Propane Gas Association and AmeriGas.)

JULIE Mandates Excavators Call - The Illinois Underground Utility Facility Damage Prevention Act states that it is the responsibility of the person who engages in an excavation to take reasonable action to inform himself of the location of any underground utility facilities near the excavation area. Therefore, the JULIE Board of Directors has approved a new policy mandating that the company/excavator who is actually doing the digging will need to call in the locate request. This action was taken due to the JULIE staff and the JULIE Operations Committee identifying the growing practice of unrelated or unidentified excavators digging on