

LPG fire training facility launched

A new fire training facility is providing New Zealand firefighters with vital skills for dealing with LPG incidents.

NZ Fire Service's National Training Centre in Rotorua is now equipped with versatile LPG training props, which can simulate different fire situations.

These props consist of a skid-mounted one-tonne LPG vessel, an automotive dispenser, your average barbecue, an LPG-fuelled car, a multi-cylinder installation and a bladder tank with running fuel simulation.

The props were developed by NZ Fire Service, OnGas and Liquid Gas Services. Assistance was also received from LPG & Safety Consultants.

At the training facility the props are set up as individual modules. Other additional props can



be added to create numerous scenarios for the firefighters to handle.

"This type of module prop training now allows the Fire Service to gain valuable experience in handling various LPG incidents," said Dave Paton from OnGas.

"It is a great facility and one which will provide big benefits for the industry. OnGas was happy

to provide assistance with the project and some of the props, as well as another crucial element needed for this kind of training - LPG."

Initially, the facility is fuelled by cylinders, but down the track this could change by making a connection to a main bulk vessel.

The LPG props had their first use at the Fire Service's National Training Facility in July.

Gas rebate for Queenslanders

Queensland homeowners will receive a \$300 rebate for switching their electric hot water system to gas under the Queensland Government's residential gas installation rebate scheme.

Queensland's mines and energy minister, Geoff Wilson, said the rebate would help households become cleaner and greener.

"Changing from electricity to gas for heating water and cooking can reduce a household's greenhouse gas emissions by around two tonnes a year," he said.

Additional rebates are available for homeowners who switch other existing electrical appliances to

gas as well, including cooking appliances, internal space heaters and clothes dryers.

Homeowners must have an eligible gas hot water system, or be installing a new one, to apply for rebates on other gas appliances.

LPGA executive director, Peter Gilbert, said the Queensland Government should be applauded for recognising the important

role direct use of gas plays in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

"Natural gas and LPG have the potential to significantly reduce our annual CO₂ output," he said.

"It is the LPGA's hope that our Government follows Queensland's lead. We will continue to work with officials to promote the considerable strategic advantages that LPG offers."

Online accreditation and testing system gets green light

Work has begun to develop an online accreditation and testing system that's set to streamline the way HSNO certification for site trainers is conducted.

The LPGA is working with training facilitators, Wavelength, to develop the e-based learning tool to enable site trainers to carry out their reaccreditation online, rather than having to arrange sessions around the country which they have to attend.

The new system will also allow trainee approved fillers to take their theory test online.

"The system represents significant savings for those being tested, in terms of both money and time," said LPGA executive director, Peter Gilbert.

Existing site trainers will be required to undertake the accreditation process every 12 months online.

"We made the decision to move from a three-yearly reaccreditation to reduce the number of site trainers on the database who may have moved on, and to ensure site trainers are reminded of their responsibilities and roles more frequently."

Site trainers who do not have access to the internet will still be able to take the test in a face-to-face session with a national trainer.

Because the cost for one-on-one training is considerably more expensive, those who opt for it will be accredited for three years.

The theory test for trainee approved fillers, which was supervised by site trainers, will now be carried out online. As trainees will still be required to purchase trainee workbooks, there will be no charge for the online test.

"Online training for approved fillers has a number of advantages for the industry. We will have a permanent record of the individual approved filler's theory test. This will provide independent verification that they have actually taken and passed the theory test," Peter said.

The LPGA also plans to move the reassessment of existing approved fillers to an online system.

"This will ensure there is a complete database of approved fillers, which we currently do not have. ERMA New Zealand has commended the move as it will provide better records of training and an up-to-date database. ERMA has also offered to approve any changes to the system."

The LPGA is funding the outlay for the new system and expects to cover costs by the fourth quarter of 2009, after which it will provide a modest income stream for the association.

New board member

Richard Marcic replaces Rebecca MacMillan as the Shell New Zealand representative on the LPGA board.

Richard is currently Shell's LPG product manager for retail in New Zealand.

Born and raised in Wellington, Richard spent time in East Timor with the NZ Armed Forces, before returning to New Zealand to complete a degree in accounting and commercial law.

In 2005 he joined Shell in Wellington and, in 2006, was transferred to Auckland to become Auckland Central territory manager, before moving back to Wellington to take up his current position.

Aussie drivers urged to convert to LPG

Former GM Holden engineer and safety campaigner, Dr Laurie Sparke, recently told a Society of Automotive Engineers conference across the Tasman that Australia was facing an oil supply crisis.

He said the danger to the economy was getting more urgent and called for a massive shift to LPG and natural gas.

Oil depletion was arguably the most serious crisis ever to face Australian society, he said.

He warned that the Australian Government's economic research agency, Abare, had forecast a 90 percent probability of a major and immediate shortfall of oil.

Oil supplies were predicted by the International Energy Agency to become extremely tight within five years. He said oil production in most of the nations supplying Australia was falling and, because many of these nations were developing their economies, they would keep more oil for themselves and export less to Australia.

Peak oil (the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached) would hit countries dependent on imports and the effects would occur very rapidly once exporting trade partners' oil reserves have peaked, Dr Sparke said.

Source: NZHerald.co.nz

Cabinet safety message out again

The LPG Association has again reminded consumers about the safe use of cabinet heaters this winter.

LPGA executive director, Peter Gilbert, said 440,000 swing tags were distributed to retail sites this year.

The swing tags are designed to be friendly and informal, but Peter said the message is one of great importance.

"While accident rates for LPG cabinet heaters are relatively low, it's important to reinforce messages on how to use them safely."

He said cabinet heaters are used in thousands of homes for many different reasons.

"Some people use them in the spring and autumn when it isn't cold enough to fire their wood burner. They are also used to heat rooms which are not used very often, such as workshops and garages, and they are handy as a back-up if the electricity supply is interrupted."

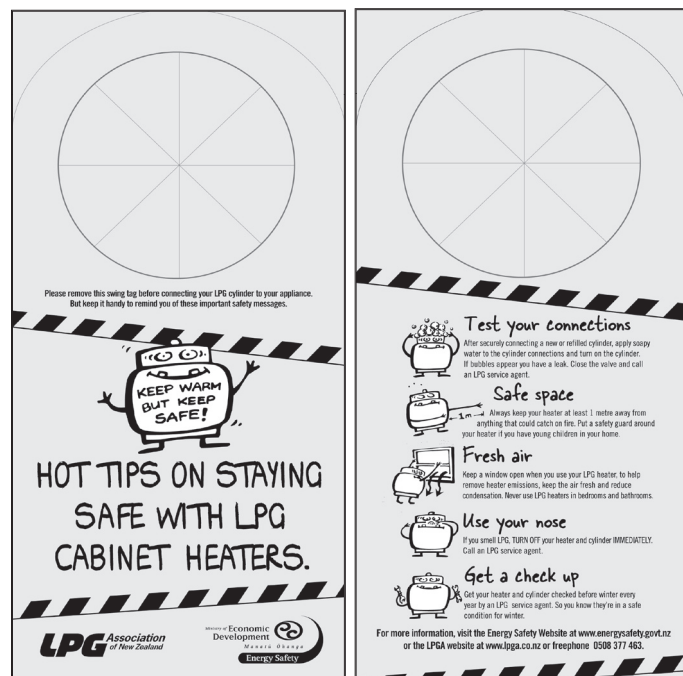
The tags remind consumers to test their connections, keep a safe space between heaters and other objects, keep a window open and to use their senses.

"We want people to be aware that if they can smell LPG they need to turn off their heaters immediately and contact an LPG service agent."

The tags also remind consumers to get their cylinder and their heater checked by a service agent at the start of every winter.

"Professional maintenance of any home appliance is an important part in ensuring it is used safely."

The swing tags were produced and distributed by the LPG Association with support from Energy Safety, part of the Ministry of Economic Development.



Mak Wogan, from Energy Safety, said the swing tags are a good way to actively promote the safe use of energy.

"As the Government agency responsible for ensuring the safe supply and use of gas, Energy Safety considers the swing tag exercise an effective way of getting safety messages directly to consumers when they fill their LPG bottles.

"The swing tags give consumers the opportunity to read important safety messages regarding the use of gas, particularly when used with cabinet heaters, to enable them to stay safe."

He said the swing tag will, hopefully, make the public more aware of gas safety issues and encourage them to make smart choices regarding heater maintenance and usage.

Cost-effective alternative to high maintenance boiler systems

A constant supply of piping hot water is crucial to the working operations of many commercial industries. This high demand requires systems that are reliable and effective at all times.

Rinnai sales, service and marketing manager, David Waters, said Rinnai has come up with a cost-effective alternative option to high maintenance boilers — a fast recovery storage system, the Rinnai Demand Duo.

The Rinnai Demand Duo is a complete package, high volume, high flow, hot water storage

system, made up of one to six heavy duty Infinity continuous flow water heaters with a manifold system, primary pump(s), thermostat and one or more stainless steel storage tanks. (The storage tank allows a defined period of high flow water, greater than the rate of stand-alone or manifolded HD units.)

"The fundamental principle of how it works is simple," said David. "The thermostat senses the temperature of the water in the tank, and when it drops below the set point, the primary pump is activated. It is this flow that starts the Rinnai

Infinity HD units, which quickly and efficiently return heated water to the tank."

He said the Rinnai Demand Duo system is more cost-effective and easier to maintain than cumbersome boiler systems, making them perfect for hotels and motels, apartment blocks, student accommodation, shower blocks, commercial kitchens and commercial laundries.

"They are also frequently used to support flow and return systems used to distribute the hot water around the larger building."

Conference 2008

Thursday 30 & Friday 31 October, Christchurch



The annual LPGA conference is fast approaching, so if you haven't registered yet, now's the time.

The venue for Conference 2008 is Rydges Hotel in Christchurch. The Garden City makes a beautiful backdrop to any event, especially in spring.

We've confirmed a fantastic line-up of speakers this year – see the programme to the right – who will inform and update you on a range of industry-related topics.

Presentations include the role of the Department of Building and Housing in energy use and emissions, a look back on the opportunities missed/taken in LPG marketing in the past year, an update on the Australian market, and a look at New Zealand's economy.

As always, there is a major emphasis on networking at this year's conference. On Thursday delegates will choose from a cruise on scenic Lyttelton Harbour, or a fun nine-hole Ambrose golf tournament at the renowned Clearwater Resort. Conference will start with a welcome cocktail and registration on Wednesday and finish with lunch on Friday afternoon.

Another great benefit of attending the conference is to provide opportunities for networking in a relaxed atmosphere, so the dress code is simple - no suits or ties!

Conference is the perfect opportunity to ensure you and your company are kept informed on the important issues affecting the LPG industry. To make sure you don't miss out, register today. Visit the LPGA website (www.lpga.org.nz) and complete the registration form or call Peter Gilbert on (04) 914 1765.

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

5.30 pm to 6.30 pm - Registration and welcome reception at the Rydges Christchurch

Thursday, October 30, 2008

8.30 am to 8.35 am - Welcome from LPGA president Albert de Geest

8.35 am to 9.10 am - Energy use and emissions, the role of the Department
Speaker from the Department of Building and Housing

9.10 am to 9.45 am - Did rain stop play?
Ken Graham, general manager, business development and marketing, AberGas Ltd

9.45 am to 10.15 am - Pegasus, the new minimum in consumer expectation
Dale Smith, Infinity Investment Group Holdings Ltd

10.45 am to 11.15 am - An Australian perspective
Steve Woodward, chief executive, LPG Australia

11.15 am to 11.50 am - Future for LPG in NZ
Albert de Geest, chief executive, Liquigas Ltd

11.50 am to 12.30 pm - NZ's existing housing stock, what to do about them?
Verney Ryan, Beacon Pathway

1.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Networking events
Lyttelton harbour cruise or golf at the Clearwater Resort

7.00 pm to 7.30 pm - Pre-dinner drinks
7.30 pm - Dinner

Friday, October 31, 2008

8.15 am to 8.45 am - AGM

8.45 am to 9.20 am - International trading and shipping of LPG, the next five years
John Johnson, regional manager, Geogas Trading SA

9.20 am to 9.50 am - Kupe update
Tony Bissell, commercial and marketing manager, Origin Energy

9.50 am to 10.05 am - President's speech
Albert de Geest

10.30 am to 11.00 am - LPGA year in review
Peter Gilbert, executive director, LPG Association

11.00 am to 11.30 am - The role of gas and the gas storage option
Speaker from Contact Energy

11.30 am to 12.15 pm - NZ economic outlook
Dominick Stephens, research economist, Westpac Bank

12.15 pm to 12.25 pm - Closing remarks
Albert de Geest

Lunches and morning teas are also included.

GasLine is published four times a year by Four Winds Communications for the LPG Association of New Zealand. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the LPGA. The LPGA can be contacted by telephone (04) 914 1765, fax (04) 914 1766, or mail PO Box 1776, Wellington. Physical address: Level 16, Grand Plimmer Tower, Gilmer Terrace, Wellington. Email: info@lpga.org.nz.