

LOSS CONTROL DATA GUIDE

Safe Operating Practices For LP-Gas Powered Fork Lift Trucks

LP-GAS powered trucks present not only the same general hazards as gasoline powered trucks but also those of a flammable gas under high pressure. The greatest danger is from the ignition of gas leaking from poorly maintained fuel connections and from the relief valve on the fuel container.

The relief valve on the fuel containers will open release and gas when the container is:

- overfilled
- exposed to high temperatures from ovens, furnaces or other high temperature equipment.

LP gas powered trucks should not be exposed to high temperatures, or other sources of ignition, except for extremely short intervals. They should never be left unattended near ovens and furnaces.

Maintenance and repair

A good preventive maintenance program with frequent inspections of the fuel system is essential to avoid a potential hazard from escaping LP-GAS.

Trucks should be kept in a clean condition, reasonably free of lint, excess oil and grease. Noncombustible materials should be used for cleaning the trucks. An outside shelter, or a one hour fire resistance rated cutoff sprinklered garage/repair shop, should be used when repairs are made on the trucks. This area should have continuous positive mechanical ventilation from the floor level. All electrical equipment should be suitable for hazardous locations.

Refueling safeguards

Trucks should be refueled outdoors at a location at least 50 feet from important buildings.

Care should be taken not to overfill LP Gas tanks. Temperature can cause the liquefied gas to expand, increase pressure and bleed off through the relief valve.

All LP-GAS cylinders should be examined before refilling. When examination reveals physical damage such as dents, scrapes or gouges, the cylinders should be considered unsafe and removed from service.

Replaceable fuel containers may be exchanged indoors if the following safety precautions are followed:

1. The exchange should be completed at least 25 feet away from open flames or other ignition sources.
2. The fuel line should be shut-off at the tank and the engine should operate until all fuel in the system is consumed.
3. The refilling and exchange operation should be handled by trained and designated personnel.
4. Smoking should be prohibited in refilling and exchange areas.

Storage of LP-GAS cylinders

Spare cylinders should be stored outside in a safe location or in a cutoff room with a one hour fire resistance rating.

If this is not possible the cylinders should be stored in a cabinet designated and approved for this purpose:

Special features include:

- all welded 12 gauge construction
- tamper proof padlocked doors.
- finished in caution yellow with Flammable-Keep Fire Away signs on the doors.

Contact your local Great American Loss Prevention Specialist for additional information.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to imply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.