



Malama O Pa! Take care, lest you be hurt!

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SAVE THE DATE: OSHA HAWAII WORKSHOP

The OSHA Hawaii Workshop will be held at Hale Ikena on May 20, 2009. The Board of Directors is in the process of signing a contract with Hale Ikena. The speakers are still being lined up, and the approximate cost will be \$75.00. Additional information will be forthcoming in the near future.

TWO KEY OFFICERS RESIGNING

Danielle Harrison has resigned as the President Elect due to time constraints. Her resignation is effective immediately. This position will remain vacant until July 1, 2009, when the newly elected President-Elect takes office.

In addition, Barbara Goto, our Treasurer has also resigned and will be moving to San Francisco. She has been our Treasurer for the past 2 years and can really balance that checkbook.

We will miss both of them. Thank you for your service to the ASSE Hawaii Chapter.

ELECTIONS

Joanna Clark is the election chairperson and is looking for volunteers to run for ASSE office. Please keep an eye out for the 2009-2010 election slate which will be sent out March 1, 2009. The voting will be held during our May meeting or after 60 days of the published date.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The ASSE Hawaii Chapter has offered three scholarships to the students at the Honolulu Community College. So far we have received two applications for the scholarships for consideration.

STUDENT CHAPTER

The student chapter held a meeting on January 19, 2009 and 15 students' attended the meeting. They have scheduled two fundraising events. They will be involved in the Kalihi Sunset Fair and the Matson Container Community Cleanup.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of February 2009 there are a total of 203 members in the Hawaii Chapter. This number includes 25 Student Members. The ASSE database now allows us a way to access this information. Previously, there was a glitch in the system which precluded the Chapter from accessing the student section database. Eight of the 25 student members joined last year. The Student Section must maintain at least 10 members to remain in good standing.

EDUCATION SECTION

From: Daily Safety Bytes, Airgas West, Inc.

Date: January 12, 2009

Propane

Propane is a naturally occurring gas composed of three carbon atoms and eight hydrogen atoms (C₃H₈). It is created along with a variety of other hydrocarbons (such as crude oil, butane, and gasoline) by the decomposition and reaction of organic matter (dead plants and animals) over long periods of time. After it is released from oil fields deep within Earth, propane is separated from other petrochemicals and refined for commercial use.

Propane belongs to a class of materials known as liquefied petroleum gases (LPGs), which are known for their ability to be converted to liquid under relatively low pressures. As a liquid, propane is 270 times more compact than it is as a gas, which allows it to be easily transported and stored as a liquid until ready for use.

Approximately 15 billion gal of propane are consumed annually in the United States as a fuel gas. The greatest consumers are the chemical and manufacturing industries, which use propane as chemical intermediates and aerosol propellants, followed by residential homes and commercial establishments, who use propane for heating and in dryers and portable grills.

The value of petroleum products has long been recognized by the civilized world, with documented examples of their use stretching back more than 5,000 years. The ancient Mesopotamians used petroleum-derived tar-like compounds for many applications, including caulking for masonry and bricks and adhesives for jewelry. About 2,000 years ago Arabian scientists learned one of the basic tenets of petroleum chemistry—that it can be distilled or separated into different parts, or fractions, based on their boiling points, and that each fraction has its own distinctive properties.

Dangers of Propane

The National Fire Protection Association claims that "more than 6,100 accidental fires and explosions occur [each year] due to the improper use of grills, resulting in 20,000 emergency room visits and \$29.1 million of estimated damage." Furthermore, approximately 20 deaths each year are attributed to propane fires and explosions associated with gas grills.

There are two reasons why there are so many injuries and deaths caused by propane gas grills: "venting" and "odor fade." First, the mechanics of a common household propane tank need to be understood. When propane tanks are exposed to excessive heat, the gas itself expands. If there is not enough room in the tank to accommodate the expanded gas, a pressure release valve will open in order to allow propane gas to be emitted from the tank.

This is called "venting." It typically occurs when the internal cylinder pressure builds up pressure until the safety relief device engages relieving pressure from the cylinder.

When venting occurs, a pungent odor should be present. Although propane is an odorless gas; the "rotten eggs" smell most people associate with propane is actually provided by ethyl mercaptan, an additive which is mixed with propane gas to alert users of a leak.

There have been several cases against propane gas grill manufacturers where consumers have been injured or killed while transporting propane tanks, or when operating gas grills in areas that were not properly ventilated, because of leaks they did not detect.

FUTURE LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Unless otherwise noted, the monthly membership meetings will be held at Hale Ikena in Fort Shafter on the third Thursday of each month from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The cost of attending including lunch is \$15.00.

If you have any suggestions for speakers, please call Neil Yamamoto, our President @ 523.6221.