

HSE Alert - LPG forklift truck fire risk

WHAT HAPPENED

Issue

HSE is aware of a number of fires on, and around, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) powered forklift trucks and other similar vehicles that have occurred during starting.

Outline of the problem

Build-up of deposits in fuel systems, in particular, the vaporiser units of LPG powered vehicles has led to a number of fires.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Please see below the recommendations from the HSE bulletin and also follow the link to [view the full bulletin](#).

- review your safe system of work in relation to the use of all LPG powered lift trucks and similar vehicles
- provide information, instruction and training for all operators about the hazards raised in this alert
- park LPG vehicles in well ventilated areas free from flammable material, particularly when parking overnight or for longer periods

- do NOT continue to turn (crank) the engine over using the starter
- do NOT repeat the normal engine starting procedure
- do NOT spray volatile agents into the air intake in an attempt to aid starting
- get off the truck and close the shut off valve to isolate the gas bottle
- secure the truck to prevent further starting attempts
- ensure the area is well ventilated
- do NOT attempt to solve or repair the problem yourself, arrange for a competent maintenance engineer to do a check of the LPG system

If you are presented with an LPG powered truck with a starting problem:

- do NOT follow the normal starting procedure
- isolate the LPG supply by closing the shut off valve
- ensure that the area is well ventilated
- disconnect the battery
- release LPG pressure trapped in the fuel supply system
- follow the manufacturer’s guidance for inspection of the LPG system

LPG is cold, take appropriate precautions when working with it. Once released LP gas is heavier than air and can pool in low lying areas, where it can be ignited by any source of ignition, including static electricity, electrical sparks and hot surfaces.

Guidance

- Approved Code of Practice and guidance [Rider-operated lift trucks: Operator training and safe use](#)
- guidance [About liquefied petroleum gas \(LPG\)](#)

LOCATION:	COMPANY-WIDE	ALERT STATUS:	Normal
ACTIVITY:	MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING	DATE ISSUED:	12/06/2023 11:55:53
SUB ACTIVITY:	MOBILE PLANT	INCIDENT No:	03642