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Managers' Update Class Next Month in Tyler

AFRED's popular one-day 6.1 Regulatory Compliance class for propane company managers will be held on Wednesday, April 25, at Gander Mountain in Tyler. Speakers from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of State Health Services, the Railroad Commission and other agencies will update marketers about recent changes in regulations and laws that affect the propane industry. Previous 6.1 classes in Austin, Brownsville and San Angelo have been well received by participating marketers.

Attendees will receive 8 hours of Railroad Commission continuing-education credit. To register online, go to www.rrc.state.tx.us, click on "Propane/LP-Gas Certification & Training" and select "Register Now."

Propane Bobtail Savings

Don Heinrich of Slaton Gas reports his new propane bobtail has been one of the best investments he's made. "The truck had one little hiccup with the regulator, and Rush flew someone out the next day to fix it. It's got plenty of power. And the \$0.50 per gallon propane tax credit has made the payback even sweeter," reports Don. "We expect to run the truck about 20,000 miles this year, so the motor fuel tax credit works out to almost \$2,000 a year."

In addition to the \$0.50 per gallon motor fuel tax credit, AFRED is working with the Internal Revenue Service to clarify how purchasers can claim an additional tax credit on the incremental purchase price of propane vehicles. Contact Heather Ball at (800) 64-CLEAR or e-mail heather.ball@rrc.state.tx.us for more information.

2007 Card Renewals Are Under Way

Now that renewal letters are out and the March 1-May 31 renewal period for LP-gas certification cards has begun, AFRED would like to remind marketers of two important changes this year.

One Employee, One Card. The first change is that each person who renews will receive only one new card. The card will be issued when the person's renewal fee has been paid AND his or her 2007 training/continuing-education (CE) requirement has been met, if applicable. This will keep people who have a May 31, 2007, CE date from receiving duplicate cards, one that still says CE due in 2007 when their renewal fee is paid, and another card that says 2011 after they take the required class.

Credit-Card Payments Go Online. The second change is that all credit-card payments will be done online through the State of Texas "payment portal." Payments made through the portal are secure, and they eliminate the need for you to fax or call in sensitive credit-card information to the Railroad Commission. Go to www.propane.tx.gov and click on the logo for "Pay Online."

A 3 percent surcharge will be added to online credit-card payments.

Marketers who have employees with May 31, 2007, CE dates should register them for classes now at www.rrc.state.tx.us by clicking on "Propane/LP-Gas Training and Certification." Don't wait!

...And a Tip If You Pay By Check

Checks can get separated from renewal letters, Form 16s or other paperwork. To insure proper credit, write your company's RRC license number on your check and briefly identify the type of payment, e.g., "00001, 2 renewals, 1 exam."

Austin Hosts Last-Minute Training Classes

From Monday, May 21, through Thursday, May 31, all of AFRED's eight-hour classes will be held in Austin, at the Railroad Commission's Alternative Fuels Training Center, 6506 Bolm Road. This will allow AFRED to offer the most classes possible during the last-minute rush 10 days before the May 31 deadline.

Plenty of classes are scheduled outside Austin between now and May 21. To keep your certified employees who have a 2007 CE due date from having to travel to Austin to attend their required class, marketers should make sure these employees attend an authorized class in their area before May 18.

Registration is required at least two business days before any scheduled class. Classes outside Austin with insufficient registered attendees may be rescheduled, so plan ahead and register your employees.

To view the class schedule or register online, go to the Railroad Commission's home page, www.rrc.state.tx.us. Under AGENCY SERVICES, click on Propane/LP-Gas Training & Certification and select "Class/Exam Schedule" or "Register Now."

Low-Income Energy Assistance

If you have low-income clients who may be eligible for assistance in paying their propane bills, encourage them to contact their local agency for assistance now. You can order bill stuffers through AFRED at (800) 64-CLEAR or at www.propane.tx.gov. You can find the agency that serves your county at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pdf/ca/06-CEAPsubgrantsByCty.pdf>. AFRED has contacted each program coordinator to provide safety education materials for their clients.

Propane-Powered "Farmstead Idea Home"

Progressive Farmer magazine has selected AFRED's Propane Star Builder Richard Laughlin to build an "Idea Home" at Coolwater Ranch, about 7 miles east of Fredericksburg. The house will showcase new products, and Richard is asking propane trade allies to assist in outfitting the home with cutting-edge propane technologies. AFRED will make available Consumer Rebates for qualifying propane appliances in the home. Please call Heather Ball at (800) 64-CLEAR if you have suggestions for additional donated propane-fueled products.

Grant Opportunities

AFRED is seeking demonstration facilities interested in partnering to apply for grants for early commercialization of specific propane agricultural equipment. Potential funding sources include state and local government agencies promoting energy efficiency and improved air quality.

If AFRED's proposals are funded, the facilities will be given grant money to cover a portion of the cost of equipment and installation. AFRED has identified potential grant sources for the following types of applications:

Pest-free Grain Storage: Portable equipment using propane-heated air instead of fumigation to keep grain storage facilities pest-free.

Combined Generation of Electricity and Hot Water: Commercial-scale propane-fueled generators capture the heat from generating electricity and use it to heat water in facilities such as dairies and confinement barns.

Propane Turf Mower: Certified low-emission propane mowers in the 25-35 hp range for agricultural applications, such as specialty turf farms.

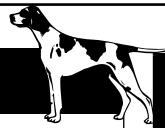
If you have agricultural customers interested in partnering with AFRED to apply for grant funding for any of these technologies, please contact your AFRED marketing rep or Heather Ball at (800) 64-CLEAR or heather.ball@rrc.state.tx.us.

FY 2007 as of 3-01-07

REBATE TYPE	REBATE AMOUNT	PAID	PENDING
Water heater--new construction	\$150	\$163,200	\$14,550
Water heater--electric replacement	\$300	\$23,400	\$4,800
Propane Star Home	\$550	\$62,700	\$12,100
Propane SuperStar Home	\$750	\$66,750	\$9,750
TOTAL CONSUMER REBATES		\$316,050	\$41,200

Delivery-Fee Collections

Collections through February 23 totaled \$1,034,155, which is 6 percent lower than the average of previous years' collections at that date. As of February 26, heating degree-days for Texas as a whole were exactly at normal levels for the 2006-2007 heating season, and 5 percent below (i.e., warmer than) normal nationally.



PROPANE POINTERS

Replacement of Relief Valves on Forklift Cylinders

Each month AFRED's hunting-dog mascot points to a section of LP-gas code or standard that the Safety Division's LP-gas inspectors often find violated. The "point" of these articles is to facilitate compliance by making marketers more aware of these issues.

This month's article covers a standard that RRC inspectors cited 271 times in the last three years. The standard is NFPA 58 §8.3.7, which sets the schedule for replacing the relief valves on forklift cylinders. Maintaining required markings should be a priority in every marketer's compliance program.

NFPA 58 §8.3.7 requires forklift cylinders and all other cylinders used in industrial truck service to have their pressure relief valve replaced by a new or unused valve within 12 years of the date of manufacture of the cylinder and every 10 years after that.

Your employees that fill industrial truck cylinders—and your customers who fill their own cylinders—need to be reminded of this requirement. The relief valve's date of manufacture or replacement date is stamped on the valve body and should be checked each time a cylinder is examined prior to being filled.



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Railroad Commission of Texas - AFRED Examination and Class Schedule, March 2007.

Walk-in exams every business day, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at 6506 Bolm Road, Austin 78721

Date	City	Course Title	Facility	Address	Exams
Mar 5	Austin	1.1 Introduction to Propane	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 6	Fort Worth	2.1 Dispenser Operations	U-Haul	3017 Alta Mesa Blvd	Students only
Mar 6	Midland	3.3 Appliance Conversion	RRC	10 Desta Drive	Students only
Mar 6	Kilgore	3.1 Residential System Design	RRC	619 Henderson Blvd	Students only
Mar 7	Midland	2.1 Dispenser Operations	RRC	10 Desta Drive	Students only
Mar 7	Kilgore	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	RRC	619 Henderson Blvd	Students only
Mar 8	Garland	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	1546 Rowlett Rd. Ste. 107	8:00 a.m.
Mar 8	Midland	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	10 Desta Drive	8:00 a.m.
Mar 8	Kilgore	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	619 Henderson Blvd	8:00 a.m.
Mar 13	Austin	2.1 Dispenser Operations	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 13	Fort Worth	3.11 Residential System Inspection	City of F.W.	4100 Columbus Trail	NO EXAMS
Mar 13	El Paso	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	RRC	401 Franklin Ave Rm. 570	Students only
Mar 13	Odessa	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	TxDOT	3901 E. Highway 80	NO EXAMS
Mar 14	Austin	Category F, G, I & J Mgmt - 2 days	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	-
Mar 14	Fort Worth	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	City of F.W.	4100 Columbus Trail	NO EXAMS
Mar 14	El Paso	2.1 Dispenser Operations	RRC	401 Franklin Ave Rm. 570	Students only
Mar 14	Odessa	1.1 Introduction to Propane	TxDOT	3901 E. Highway 80	NO EXAMS
Mar 15	Fort Worth	EXAMS ONLY	City of F.W.	4100 Columbus Trail	8:00 a.m.
Mar 15	El Paso	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	401 Franklin Ave Rm. 570	8:00 a.m.
Mar 15	Odessa	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	3901 E. Highway 80	8:00 a.m.
Mar 19	Austin	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 20	Abilene	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	TxDOT	4250 N. Clack	NO EXAMS
Mar 20	Austin	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 21	Abilene	1.1 Introduction to Propane	TxDOT	4250 N. Clack	NO EXAMS
Mar 22	Austin	3.11 Residential System Inspection	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 22	Abilene	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	4250 N. Clack	8:00 a.m.
Mar 23	Austin	2.1 Dispenser Operations	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 26	Austin	1.1 Introduction to Propane	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Mar 27	Lufkin	3.11 Residential System Inspection	TxDOT	1805 N. Timberland Dr.	NO EXAMS
Mar 27	Corpus Christi	2.1 Dispenser Operations	RRC	10320 IH 37	NO EXAMS
Mar 28	Lufkin	2.1 Dispenser Operations	TxDOT	1805 N. Timberland Dr.	NO EXAMS
Mar 28	Corpus Christi	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	RRC	10320 IH 37	NO EXAMS
Mar 28	Houston	2.1 Dispenser Operations	U-Haul	8518 Highway 6 South	Students only
Mar 29	Lufkin	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	1805 N. Timberland Dr.	8:00 a.m.
Mar 29	Corpus Christi	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	10320 IH 37	8:00 a.m.
Mar 29	Houston	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	7721 Washington, Main Bldg.	8:00 a.m.

Register online for exams or classes at www.rrc.state.tx. Click on "Training & Certification."
No examinations will be given out after 9:00 a.m.

For the latest schedule information about both exams and training/continuing education classes, go to www.rrc.state.tx. Click on "Class/Exam Schedule."

Railroad Commission of Texas - AFRED Examination and Class Schedule, April 2007.

Walk-in exams every business day, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at 6506 Bolm Road, Austin 78721

Apr 2	Austin	1.1 Introduction to Propane	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 2	Austin	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 3	Krum	1.1 Introduction to Propane	Masonic Lodge	230 N. 2nd Street	Students only
Apr 3	Beaumont	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	TxDOT	8350 Eastex Fwy, Assy Rm	NO EXAMS
Apr 4	Houston	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	TxDOT	7721 Washington, Main Bldg.	NO EXAMS
Apr 4	Krum	1.1 Introduction to Propane	Masonic Lodge	230 N. 2nd Street	Students only
Apr 4	Beaumont	1.1 Introduction to Propane	TxDOT	8350 Eastex Fwy, Assy Rm	NO EXAMS
Apr 5	Houston	3.11 Residential System Inspection	TxDOT	7721 Washington, Main Bldg.	NO EXAMS
Apr 5	Beaumont	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	8350 Eastex Fwy, Assy Rm	8:00 a.m.
Apr 5	Garland	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	1546 Rowlett Rd. Ste. 107	8:00 a.m.
Apr 9	Austin	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 10	Austin	2.1 Dispenser Operations	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 10	Littlefield	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	R & W Supply	2210 Hall Avenue	Students only
Apr 11	Austin	Category F, G, I & J Mgmt - 2 days	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	-
Apr 11	Littlefield	3.11 Residential System Inspection	R & W Supply	2210 Hall Avenue	Students only
Apr 12	Littlefield	3.3 Appliance Conversion	R & W Supply	2210 Hall Avenue	Students only
Apr 16	Austin	1.1 Introduction to Propane	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 17	Mesquite	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	TxDOT	4777 E. Hwy. 80, Room 3B	NO EXAMS
Apr 17	Austin	3.2 Residential Propane Installation	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 17	San Angelo	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	RRC	622 S. Oakes, Room 114	NO EXAMS
Apr 18	Mesquite	3.3 Appliance Conversion	TxDOT	4777 E. Hwy. 80, Room 3B	NO EXAMS
Apr 18	Austin	2.1 Dispenser Operation	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 18	San Angelo	1.1 Introduction to Propane	RRC	622 S. Oakes, Room 114	NO EXAMS
Apr 19	Austin	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only
Apr 19	Mesquite	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	4777 E. Hwy. 80, Room 3B	8:00 a.m.
Apr 19	San Angelo	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	622 S. Oakes, Room 114	8:00 a.m.
Apr 24	Odessa	2.3 Delivery Truck Operations	TxDOT	3901 E. Highway 80	NO EXAMS
Apr 24	Harlingen	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	TCEQ	1804 W Jefferson Ave.	NO EXAMS
Apr 24	Waco	3.8 RV Gas Appliances	TxDOT	100 So. Loop Drive	NO EXAMS
Apr 24	Houston	2.1 Dispenser Operations	U-Haul	8518 Highway 6 South	Students only
Apr 25	Odessa	3.11 Residential System Inspection	TxDOT	3901 E. Highway 80	NO EXAMS
Apr 25	Harlingen	2.1 Dispenser Operations	TCEQ	1804 W Jefferson Ave.	NO EXAMS
Apr 25	Waco	1.1 Introduction to Propane	TxDOT	100 So. Loop Drive	NO EXAMS
Apr 25	Houston	2.1 Dispenser Operations	U-Haul	8518 Highway 6 South	Students only
Apr 25	Tyler	6.1 Regulatory Compliance/Managers	Gander Mtn.	151 Market Square Blvd.	NO EXAMS
Apr 26	Odessa	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	3901 E. Highway 80	8:00 a.m.
Apr 26	Harlingen	EXAMS ONLY	TCEQ	1804 W Jefferson Ave.	8:00 a.m.
Apr 26	Waco	EXAMS ONLY	TxDOT	100 So. Loop Drive	8:00 a.m.
Apr 26	Houston	EXAMS ONLY	RRC	1706 Seamist Dr., Suite 501	8:00 a.m.
Apr 30	Austin	1.1 Introduction to Propane	RRC	6506 Bolm Road	Students only

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MARKETERS *MAKING NEWS*



AFRED's Bobby Wood reported a steady flow of potential customers at Schneider Distributing's booth during the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo. John Walter's "line burn" display showed off propane's ability to keep the chill off, especially when the temperature dropped to 18 degrees outside!



Rick and Leslie Leathers, Independent Propane, staffed the Lufkin Home Products Show with AFRED rep Susan DeCell. "This show was a great way to meet local builders and developers," enthused Rick.



Cary and Dorothy Tomerlin of Concho Butane proudly displayed AFRED's "Powered by Propane" decal on their 1947 Studebaker during the San Angelo Rodeo parade. The propane-powered pickup garnered an award from the judges.



Gayla Moore of Lyons Propane worked to promote propane as an exceptional energy at the Lufkin Home Products Show. AFRED's Susan DeCell reported local marketers attracted 20 home sale leads as a result of the show.



Rusty Wilkerson of Deweyville LP Gas sponsored AFRED's training for his local volunteer fire department. Afterwards, Deweyville LP Gas provided a shrimp and fish fry for the participants. AFRED's Thomas Petru led the training, which is designed to help emergency responders handle propane incidents properly and safely.



Following the first sale of a Propane Star Home by Palm Harbor Village, Lorraine Holean of Modern Propane Services met with Mike Bueker and Brian Roller of Palm Harbor to discuss the technical side of piping propane for manufactured housing. AFRED's Pat Wilson worked closely with Palm Harbor Village to showcase propane's benefits in the all-propane model home on their lot.