



## Santa Monica Fire Department CUPA NEWS



### Compressed Gases

April 2013

Thousands of products are available which contain gases and mixtures of gases stored under pressure in cylinders. Most of these gases are classified as "compressed gases". The California Fire Code (CFC) categorizes compressed gases as follows; Non-liquefied Gases (gases that are entirely gaseous at 68 degrees Fahrenheit), Liquefied Gases (gases that are partially liquid at 68 degrees Fahrenheit), Gases in solution (non-liquefied gases dissolved in a solvent) and Gas Mixtures (two compressed gases in a mixture). In many instances, compressed gases can simplify operational storage needs by reducing the volume of bulk chemical storage. At the same time, the nature of



compressing these products to a reduced storage volume can result in added or increased hazards for employees, the public, and emergency responders during an emergency. In addition to the physical hazards associated with a high pressure release, compressed gases can also create **oxygen deficient environments, fires, explosions and toxic gas releases.**

Inert gases such as Argon, Helium, Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide are not toxic and do not burn yet they can cause injury or death if they are present in sufficiently high concentrations displacing enough air to reduce oxygen levels. Low oxygen levels can be a particular problem in poorly ventilated, confined spaces. Often believed to be a harmless gas consumed by millions of people as an additive in carbonated

beverages, **Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** a noncombustible, colorless, odorless and tasteless gas, has recently proven otherwise. In January of 2005, improper handling and management of **CO<sub>2</sub>** resulted in the death of two employees at a McDonald's restaurant in Sanford, Florida. The subsequent investigative report revealed that when the McDonald's employee discovered he did not have a key to the permanent **CO<sub>2</sub>** storage area, he scaled the wall of the enclosure in order to make the physical connection. The truck driver then passed the delivery hose over the wall of the enclosure to the McDonald's employee and also climbed over the wall into the enclosure. In the process of connection the hose, a sufficient amount of **CO<sub>2</sub>** accumulated in the enclosure causing both employees to lose consciousness and prevented them from exiting the confined space and succumbing to the oxygen deficient environment. In other separate incidents, 10 people became ill, including a woman who later died at restaurant in Pooler, Georgia as a result of a **CO<sub>2</sub>** leak. Similarly, a **CO<sub>2</sub>** leak in restaurant located in a Phoenix, Arizona resulted in an employee and an emergency responder being overcome by the lack of oxygen in the compressed gas storage area.

The Santa Monica CUPA regulates and permits businesses storing compressed gases, including **CO<sub>2</sub>** at levels established in the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.95. If your business handles compressed gases in amounts equal to or greater than 55 gallons, 500 pounds or 200 cubic feet, you must disclose your chemical inventory, implement an emergency plan within 30 days of operation, and obtain a corresponding permit from the Department. Facilities subject to permit requirements are required to train employees annually on proper handling and hazards associated with stored materials and emergency response procedures to include reporting releases of the material. The HSC provides for two primary gas exemptions; a medical gas exemption and a secondary exemption for noble gases. Medical facilities are exempt from permit requirements

Welcome to the Third Edition of the Santa Monica Fire Department CUPA Newsletter an annual publication. Comments, ideas and suggestions are encouraged and may be forwarded to [cupasm@smgov.net](mailto:cupasm@smgov.net)

Please note that it is our goal to send you future publications of this newsletter via email in an effort to contribute towards the City of Santa Monica sustainability efforts.



ELECTRONIC REPORTING IS HERE AND IT'S MANDATORY. PER SENATE BILL 2286 ELECTRONIC REPORTING BECAME MANDATORY JANUARY 1, 2013. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU? IF YOU ARE A CURRENTLY PERMITTED CUPA FACILITY YOUR 2013/2014 ANNUAL UPDATE MUST BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING SYSTEM AT: [HTTP://CERS.CALEPA.CA.GOV](http://CERS.CALEPA.CA.GOV)

FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE YOU MAY EMAIL US AT: [CUPASM@SMGOV.NET](mailto:CUPASM@SMGOV.NET) OR CALL (310) 458-4971

## Compressed Gases Cont.

if they maintain no more than 1,000 cubic feet of Oxygen, Nitrogen and Nitrous Oxide in any combination. The second exemption, exempts any business handling no more than a total of 1,000 cubic feet of the six noble gases; Helium, Neon, Argon, Xenon and Radon.

The Santa Monica Fire Department inspects businesses subject to CUPA program requirements on an annual basis. This is to ensure that your business is complying with applicable laws/regulations and to minimize hazardous conditions to public, personnel and emergency responders. If your business is currently permitted for the storage of compressed gases under the CUPA program, please reference the list below for items commonly inspected during a routine inspection. If you have any questions regarding compressed gas storage requirements or the CUPA program please contact us at: [www.cupasm.gov.net](http://www.cupasm.gov.net) or (310) 458-4971.

- \* **Hazardous Materials Permit-** (H&SC 25503.5 ) Any facility that stores or uses hazardous materials must apply for and obtain a hazardous materials storage permit.
- \* **Employee Training-** (H&SC 25504 (c)) Employee training for all employees in safety procedures in the event of a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, including, but not limited to, familiarity with facility emergency response plans and procedures.
- \* **Emergency Response Plans -**(H&SC 25504 (b)) Written Procedures in the event of a reportable release or threatened release of a hazardous material, including, but not limited to, notification to the local emergency response agency, Santa Monica CUPA.
- \* **Tank Cylinder Markings-** (CFC 3003.4) Stationary compressed gas containers, cylinders, tanks, and systems shall be marked with the name of the gas.
- \* **Valve Protection-** (CFC 3003.6, 3003.6.1) Tank valves shall be protected from physical damage by means of protective caps. Protective device shall be in place except when in use.
- \* **Venting of Gases-** (CFC 3005.5) The venting of any gas must be directed to an approved area outside of the building.
- \* **Securing Compressed Gas Cylinders-** (CFC 3003.5.3) Cylinders must be secured to prevent falling due to contact or seismic activity.
- \* **Tank Shutoff Valves (Cryogenics)-** (CFC 3205.1.2.3.1) Shutoff valves shall be provided on all container connections and located as close as practical to container.
- \* **Hazard Identification Signage-** (CFC 2703.5) visible hazard identification signs as specified in NFPA 704 for the specified material placed on stationary containers and entrances to locations where hazardous materials are stored
- \* **Visible Identification Signage-** (CFC 2703.5.1)- Rooms or cabinets containing compressed gases shall be conspicuously labeled: COMPRESSED GAS.
- \* **Upright Storage-**(CFC 3005.6) Compressed gas cylinders shall be used in upright position with valve end up.
- \* **MSDS-**(CFC 2703.4)- MSDS shall be readily available on the premises for hazardous materials.
- \* **Pressure relief device (Cryogenics)-** (CFC 3203.2) shall be provided to protect containers from rupture in the event of overpressure.

## FREE Architectural Paint Disposal with



### What is PaintCare "California Paint Stewardship Program" ?

PaintCare is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, established by the American Coatings Association to implement state mandated paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that have adopted a paint stewardship law. Paintcare is currently implementing paint collection programs in California, Connecticut, Oregon and Rhode Island.

Until very recently, unused, leftover paint disposal had only been managed by local programs operated by and paid for by local and state government agencies. Effective October 2012, California law requires that the paint and coatings industry develop a financially and environmentally sustainable solution for the management of waste architectural paint. With the establishment of this new law, the paint industry has made paint recycling more convenient by setting up locations throughout the state where consumers can take their unwanted paint. Locally, Sherwin-Williams Paint located 816 Pico Blvd. is participating in the program and collecting paint from the public. For additional locations you may visit [paintcare.org](http://paintcare.org) or call (855) 724-6809.



### Is there a disposal fee associated with program participation ?

NO, paint disposal through the PaintCare program is free of charge. The program is funded by paint manufacturers paying the PaintCare Recovery Fee on all architectural paint sold in California. Manufacturers pass the fee on to distributors and retailers, who in turn pass the fee on to consumers. Consumers are currently assessed .75 cents for a one gallon purchase on paint. This surcharge increases to \$1.60 for purchases that are between 1 and 5 gallons. Please note that the surcharge fee is non-refundable.

### What are the Products Covered ?

Architectural paints are defined as interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in containers of 5 gallon or less. Examples of qualifying items for disposal through PaintCare include water and oil based paints, deck/floor coatings, primers, sealers, stains, shellacs, varnishes, concrete and wood water-proofers, single component pool paints, metal coatings and rust inhibitors. Non-eligible items include paint thinners, mineral spirits, solvents, aerosols (spray paints), auto/marine/traffic/road paints, caulking, epoxies adhesives, paint additives, wood preservatives, roof patch, deck cleaners, two-component coatings, industrial maintenance, or original equipment (OE) coatings.

### Who can participate in the program ?

All residential architectural paint is eligible for free disposal through the PaintCare program. Additionally, trade painters, contractors, and other businesses may participate with one restriction: If your business generates more than 27 gallons of hazardous waste per month you may only use the drop off sites for your latex paint and not for oil based paint.

### Limits on Quantities at Drop-Off Sites and Store Hours Availability !

Drop-off sites may establish limits on the quantity of products they accept. Smaller stores will generally have lower limits than larger stores. For local limits and store hour availability please contact Sherwin Williams, 816 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica at (310) 399-0157.

*\* Do not abandon waste; it's against the law. For additional hazardous waste disposal information please contact the Santa Monica Household Hazardous Waste Center at (310) 458-4255.*

**Important Telephone Numbers**  
**Hazardous Materials Emergency-911**

CITY OF SANTA MONICA FIRE/ CUPA TELPHONE NUMBERS

Eric Binder-CUPA Program Manager, Assistant Fire Marshal.....310-434-2666  
Monica Hanley-Underground Tanks, Environmental Compliance Specialist.....310-458-8227  
Oscar Fernandez-CUPA Admin, CERS, Permit Processing, Environmental Analyst.....310-458-4971  
Water Resources Business Office- CUPA Payments.....310-458-8224  
Santa Monica Fire Prevention.....310-458-8915

California Emergency Management Agency

Region 1.....310-729-8322  
Reporting Hazardous Materials Release:  
Business Hours.....916-845-8911  
After Hours.....800-852-7550

California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Region 3, Glendale.....818-551-2800

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Program, West County Region.....310-348-1792

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Region 4, Los Angeles.....323-266-7500

SANTA MONICA FIRE CUPA/ CERS Website

CUPA- General E-mail Box.....cupasm@smgov.net  
CERS-Website .....http://cers.calepa.gov

Southern California Air Quality Management  
District, Diamond Bar.....909-396-2000

**Santa Monica Fire Dept.**  
**Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)**  
**333 Olympic Drive, 2nd Floor**  
**Santa Monica, CA 90401**