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Technical Safety Division

DIRECTIVE

(Issued pursuant to s.30 of the *Technical Safety Act*)

DIRECTIVE #: FSD 2015-003

SECTION: Fuel Safety

SUBJECT: Propane Bulk Plants

ISSUED BY: Paul Fowler, Chief Inspector (Acting), Fuel Safety

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EFFECTIVE DATE: August 25,2015

Release of propane to atmosphere

-In August 2006 Fuel Safety Bulletin 2006-05 was published by this office dealing with the release of propane to the atmosphere. This bulletin required any propane bulk plant where the release of propane may happen as a result of activities such as emptying propane tanks and cylinders for repair or scrap, emptying propane bulk delivery vehicles for repair or service, or purging propane tanks and cylinders to be equipped with an approved flare tower. While some plants have complied with this requirement and have installed approved flare towers, others have not and therefore have no approved manner to perform the above noted tasks or any task requiring the release of propane to atmosphere.

-Effective immediately, approved flare towers will be considered an essential piece of equipment for all propane bulk plants performing any activity which involves the release of propane to atmosphere. All propane bulk plants shall be equipped with an approved flare tower before October 30,2015.

Vehicle parking at bulk plants

-We have recently been asked if the parking of vehicles inside the fenced area of a propane bulk plant is permissible.

-Propane bulk plants are considered high risk areas due to the transfer of product to and from trucks, railcars, cylinders and tanks, as well as vehicle movement in close proximity to stored propane. Due to these high risk activities access to propane bulk plants shall be restricted to authorized employees of the plant owner/operator and any time the plant is open and in operation a Fuel Safety Class B licensed plant

operator shall be in attendance. Any person required to be inside the plant who is not an authorized employee of the plant owner/ operator shall be accompanied by the licensed plant operator at all times. Vehicle parking inside the fenced area of propane bulk plants shall be restricted to those vehicles required for the operation of the plant such as propane delivery vehicles (bulk and cylinder), propane service vehicles, and the personal vehicles of any authorized employees who are required to park their vehicles at the plant as part of their duties. Any other vehicles required to be inside the fenced area of the plant must be accompanied by the licensed plant operator (such as, but not limited to, RV's seeking refills, crane trucks delivering/picking up tanks, freight delivery, etc.). This requirement is effective immediately.

Questions or comments regarding this directive may be addressed to the Chief Inspector, Fuel Safety.