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May 2020

Texas Propane

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE TEXAS PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION

Associations Helping Propane Industry Navigate the COVID-19 Situation

Welcome to the Capital of Texas: 2020 Crossroads

Annual Retail Sales of Propane Reports *Due June 1*

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May 2020

Texas Propane

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Supporting Your Business Through These Trying Times

Bill Van Hoy

TPGA Executive Director

In light of the developments regarding COVID-19, I'd like to first say that our thoughts are with those affected by the virus in the U.S. and around the globe.

TPGA is here to help you with temporary changes to regulations, industry best practices in response to the pandemic and more. We have assembled a specific COVID-19 page on our website, www.txpropane.com, that houses all our COVID-19 resources, responses and information about the pandemic. Some of that important information is included in this month's issue of *Texas Propane*. We will continue to track state and federal actions taken in response to COVID-19 as it relates to the propane industry.

State governments have issued restrictions on gatherings and meetings in an effort to limit and slow the spread of the virus. The health and safety of the TPGA community is our first priority and we are supporting these efforts. So we have canceled the upcoming in-person 2nd Quarter Board and Related Committee meetings scheduled for later this month in Waco.

Given that the 2020 Crossroads TPGA Propane Expo & Conference is still months away in late July, we continue our preparations to host that exciting event in Austin, TX. Please be assured that we will continue to watch for guidance from local, state and federal leaders as our first concern is the health and wellbeing our exhibitors and attendees.

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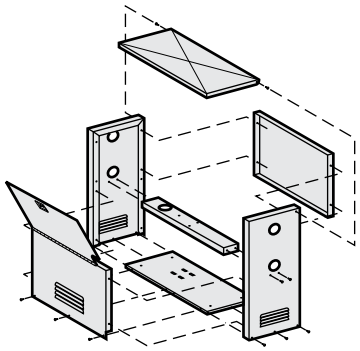

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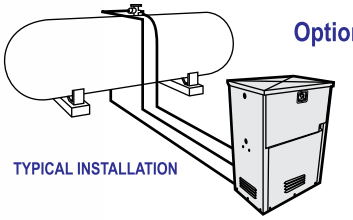

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Associations Helping Propane Industry Navigate the COVID Situation

The world, the nation, and Texas have experienced unprecedented times. Through it all, the Texas Propane Gas Association (TPGA) and the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) were there for the propane industry as a guiding light through the storm.

STOP
COVID-19
Coronavirus

It all started when China began seeing its first known cases of COVID-19 in December, and by the end of January 2020 the White House had announced a task force was being formed to monitor the situation, contain the virus and inform the American people on the illness sweeping the globe.

By March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the President of United States declared a national emergency; that same day the Governor of Texas issued a disaster declaration for the State of Texas. Both the Texas Propane Gas Association and the National Propane Gas Association have been there through it all.

Essential Workers

The National Propane Gas Association provided several agencies vital information, which resulted in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) including propane in its list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers. On March 19, 2020, DHS released its *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During Covid-19 Response*, which specifically outlined in its own section propane and natural gas operations. It is not a blanket exemption for the propane industry as a whole, but lists the specific job functions and sectors that are considered essential critical workers.

"There is always strength in numbers. The more individuals or organizations that you can rally to your cause, the better."

– Mark Shields

Later, on March 28, 2020, DHS released Version 2.0 of the *Essential Worker Advisory Memorandum*, while further clarified the exemption to include equipment manufacturers and distributors as part of the critical workforce.

On the Texas home front, Governor Greg Abbott made an *Essential Workers Executive Order Only* adopting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers list. While others were ordered to stay at home, certain employees in the propane industry were granted access to serve customers.

The CDC later released guidance on essential critical exposure to ensure continuity of operations of essential functions. The CDC advised that these essential workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

A potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The time frame for having contact with an individual includes the period of time 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

Critical workers who have had an exposure but remain asymptomatic should adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift:

- **Pre-screen:** Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.
- **Regular monitoring:** As long as the employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.
- **Wear a mask:** The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.
- **Social distance:** The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.
- **Disinfect and clean workspaces:** Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment routinely.

If the employee becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately. Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected. Information on persons who had contact with the ill employee during the time the employee had symptoms and 2 days prior to symptoms should be compiled. Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the employee

during this time would be considered exposed.

More information can be downloaded under Health & Safety tab at https://www.txpropane.com/coronavirus-resources.

Exemptions & Waivers

Members of NPGA's advocacy team met with federal agencies on a weekly basis during coronavirus break, while Texas Propane Gas Association kept in close contact with state agencies here in Texas on compliance relief matters.

Since March, both the National Propane Gas Association and the Texas Propane Gas Association ramped up communications to members and the propane industry, keeping them informed on crucial information as it came available, including exemptions and other critical waivers.

Compliance waivers and exemptions included:

- Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers exemption
- Extension of expired commercial driver's licenses (CDL) including hazmat endorsements
- Extension of expired CDL medical cards
- Railroad Commission licensing & certification waiver
- Railroad Commission Transport Driver exam exemption
- Recurrent U.S. DOT HAZMAT training
- U.S. DOT drug & alcohol testing compliance relief guidance
- Federal hours of service exemption when providing relief
- Texas exemption of vehicle registration and vehicle inspections
- Texas suspension of size and weight restrictions when providing relief

Waiver and exemption dates are subject to change. Visit the association's dedicated COVID-19 webpage to download the latest versions of waivers and exemptions.

Resources

The Texas Propane Gas Association set up a dedicated page on www.txpropane.com, creating a one stop for the Texas propane industry to the latest pertinent information for business related to the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to waivers and exemptions, the page features sections for *Health & Safety* as well as *Employer Resources*.

Initially, the page included education pieces on what COVID-19 is and how it may affect propane industry members who come into contact with the general public on an everyday basis. The Texas Propane Gas Association released a *Basic Principles for Entering a Customer's Home*, and the Propane Education & Research Council followed suit with a list of *Operation Considerations, Customer Interactions, Handing of Out of Gas Situations* and other guidelines to help the industry.

In March and April, the National Propane Gas Association partnered with the Propane Education & Research Council held webinars to answer questions on legislative, regulatory and operational concerns due to the coronavirus. More than 900 propane professionals have attended these offerings.

With shortage of PPE, NPGA worked with FEMA to try to secure cloth masks to member propane workers out in the field at no cost. 1,200 member propane locations requested over 57,000 masks.

Employer Resources

Throughout the pandemic, the federal government offered a variety of financial aid to employees and employers. Below we breakdown some of the key pieces of requirements and relief.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Congress passed the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* to provide employees paid sick leave, paid expanded family, and medical leave. It is in effect from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The Act applies to businesses with 500 or fewer employees, impacting millions of businesses across the U.S.

Employers with fewer than 50 employees may be eligible for exemption when it comes to leave requests specific to care for a child whose school is closed, or childcare is unavailable if it would jeopardize the vitality of the business.

Employers are required to post these paid leave requirements conspicuously. Employers can also share this information if it has office staff working remotely, by direct mail and email. Not

COVID-19 Timeline

January 29, 2020 - The White House formed a new task force to monitor and contain the spread of the virus and inform Americans with the latest on COVID-19.

March 11, 2020 - The World Health Organization (WHO) declares the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

March 13, 2020 – President Trump declares a national emergency & earmarks $50B from the federal reserve to combat coronavirus.

March 13, 2020 – Texas Governor Greg Abbott issues disaster declaration for Texas relating to coronavirus.

March 18, 2020 - U.S. Department of Homeland Security names certain members of the propane industry as essential critical infrastructure workers.

March 18, 2020 – President Trump signs into law the Family First coronavirus relief package that includes provisions for paid leave.

March 27, 2020 – President Trump signs the CARES ACT stimulus package into law.

March 28, 2020 – U.S. Department of Homeland Security releases Version 2.0 of the Essential Critical Workers Advisory Memorandum.

March 31, 2020 – Governor Abbott issues an essential critical infrastructure worker only executive order.

April 12, 2020 – Texas Governor Abbott extends disaster declaration for Texas concerning COVID-19.

April 23, 2020 - Paycheck Protection Program & Health Care Enhancement Act passed Congress to replenish PPP & EIDL funds.

posting or providing the notice is a violation of the FFCRA. The poster can be downloaded at https://www.txpropane.com/coronavirus-resources.

Paid Leave Employer Tax Credits. Employers can recoup 100% of paid leave paid to employees through deducting from employment taxes what the employer owes the IRS.

Other employer resources. In addition to guidance on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, with the help of the National Propane Gas Association, TPGA provided the industry with a lot of resources including tips on preventing exposure in the workplace, what to do if one of your employees tests positive and other frequently asked questions.

Business Funding

During the pandemic, with unemployment numbers surging and state call centers strained, the federal government and Congress created stimulus funding with several options primarily intended for businesses with less 500 employees to help with payroll and other business expenses.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Initially, $349 billion alone was allocated to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The program was designed so employers were not forced to layoff or let go of staff and continue employees' paychecks for up to 8 weeks. The caveat for the loan to be forgivable is that businesses could not reduce their workforce. If they already had, they must quickly rehire their employees.

There is no requirement for collateral, or a business does not have to show evidence of economic hardship with the PPP program.

A small business does not have to pay back the loan; basically, it can be forgivable, if the said company retains employees and does not decreases wages more than 25%; however, if employees are let go during the loan period, the amount of loan forgiveness could be reduced or unforgiven. To receive loan forgiveness, must complete additional application with documentation/proof like payroll reports that spent on qualifying expenses.

Unforgiven loan portion are subject to a 1% interest rate but can be deferred for six months.

Following its original launch, the SBA processed more than 14 years' worth of loans in less than 14 days, helping to protect American jobs. Initial allocation of funds to the PPP program, which ran out mid-April, yielded 1.6 million funded applications, 134,737 of the loans were granted in Texas, which totaled $28 billion.

By late April, 2020, the Hill reached a half a trillion deal to replenish the depleted PPP program, with an additional $310 billion. There is no telling how long the new funds will last.

Employee Retention Tax Credits

There was an alternative option for employers, those not taking advantage of the PPP program, Employee Retention Tax Credits.

The Employee Retention Credit is a refundable tax credit not to be confused with the Paid Leave Tax Credit. Like the Paid Leave Tax credit, it too is taken against employment taxes. The Employee Retention Tax Credit is taken against equal to 50 percent of the qualified wages an eligible employer pays to employees after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021. Eligible employers can get immediate access to the credit by reducing employment tax deposits they are otherwise required to make. Also, if the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may get an advance payment from the IRS.

Employers are eligible for the credit if they operate a trade or business during calendar year 2020 and experience either: the full or partial suspension of the operation of their trade or business during any calendar quarter because of governmental orders limiting commerce, travel, or group meetings due to COVID-19, or a significant decline in gross receipts.

More information about the tax credit can be found at https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/employee-retention-credit.

Additional Funding Options

Congress passed a multitude of bills providing relief for businesses, in addition to the PPP program, there are other loan options through the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Emergency Advance

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to $10,000. This advance will provide

economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available following a successful application.

This $10,000 loan advance will not have to be repaid.

This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees (including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons), affected by COVID-19. Businesses in certain industries may have more than 500 employees if they meet the SBA's size standards for those industries. By mid- April, the EIDL ran out of funds, but another $60 billion was also allocated to replenish the funds in late April.

Apply. To apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) or Emergency Advance, go to https://covid19relief.sba.gov/ to start the application.

SBA Express Bridge Loans

Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program allows small businesses that currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 quickly. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loan or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan. If a small business has an urgent need for cash while waiting for decision and disbursement on an Economic Injury Disaster Loan, they may qualify for an SBA Express Disaster Bridge Loan. Will be required to be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from the EIDL loan.

SBA Debt Relief

The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SBA will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of current 7(a), 504, and microloans for a period of six months if issued prior to September 27, 2020.

Check out all SBA Coronavirus loan options and loan details at https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

In addition to the SBA programs, in late April, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce rolled out the Save Small Business Fund initiative, which offers $5,000 short-term relief grants to small employers in the United States.

The short-term grants are funded by corporate and philanthropic partners as a collective effort to financially assist small businesses. To qualify, a small business must employ 3 to 20 people, be located in an economically vulnerable community, and have been harmed financially by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Status of funds and program details can be found at https://savesmallbusiness.com/.

Main Street Lending Program (MSLP) (Option for Medium to Larger Employers)

Although not forgivable, $600 billion in loan funding is targeted to medium to larger employers. The minimum size for an

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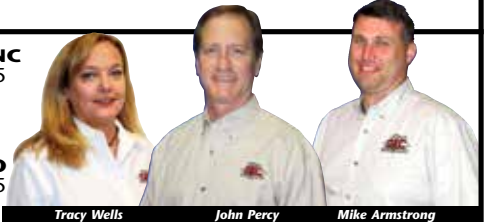
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MSLP loan will be $1 million. The maximum loan available loan will be the lessor of either $25 million or 2 times 2019 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA).

For more information and Treasury Department updates on program implementation under the CARES Act, visit www.Treasury.gov/CARES.

Energy Assistance for Customers

In addition to other efforts, the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) lobbied Congress to help customers with energy bills during the COVID outbreak. Congress awarded an additional $900 million in emergency contingency funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The federal energy assistance program administered in the State of Texas, by the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA), through its Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, better known as CEAP. Our CEAP received $89 million of $900 million.

Eligibility. Income level of 150% the federal poverty level still applies to apply for the Texas Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program. Applicants can verbally report of loss of job, income, or need due to sheltering-in-place or local restrictions from COVID-19 that impacts the household to a local CEAP caseworker in your country.

What does it cover? For qualifying households, under the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, energy bills like propane.

For more information, please call 1-877-399-8939 during regular business hours. This toll-free number will directly connect you with the CEAP provider in your area or visit the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program web page at https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/ceap for more information on energy assistance.

Unemployment

If a company is forced to terminate employment due to the pandemic, the employees have benefits for up to 39 weeks. Typical unemployment is 26 weeks.

This past spring, the Texas Workforce Commission hired an additional 1,000 employees, expanded operations to 7 days a week and opened additional call centers to help handle the additional call load.

As of late April, the TWC had processed claims for over 1.4 million Texans since the pandemic had started.

Lending a Hand

In the end, the industry came together as one, and we hope that through it all that the Texas Propane Gas Association and the National Propane Gas Association helped you in one way or another through this unprecedented time.

For the most up to date information, a one-stop for everything mentioned in this article, again we encourage everyone to visit https://www.txpropane.com/coronavirus-resources.

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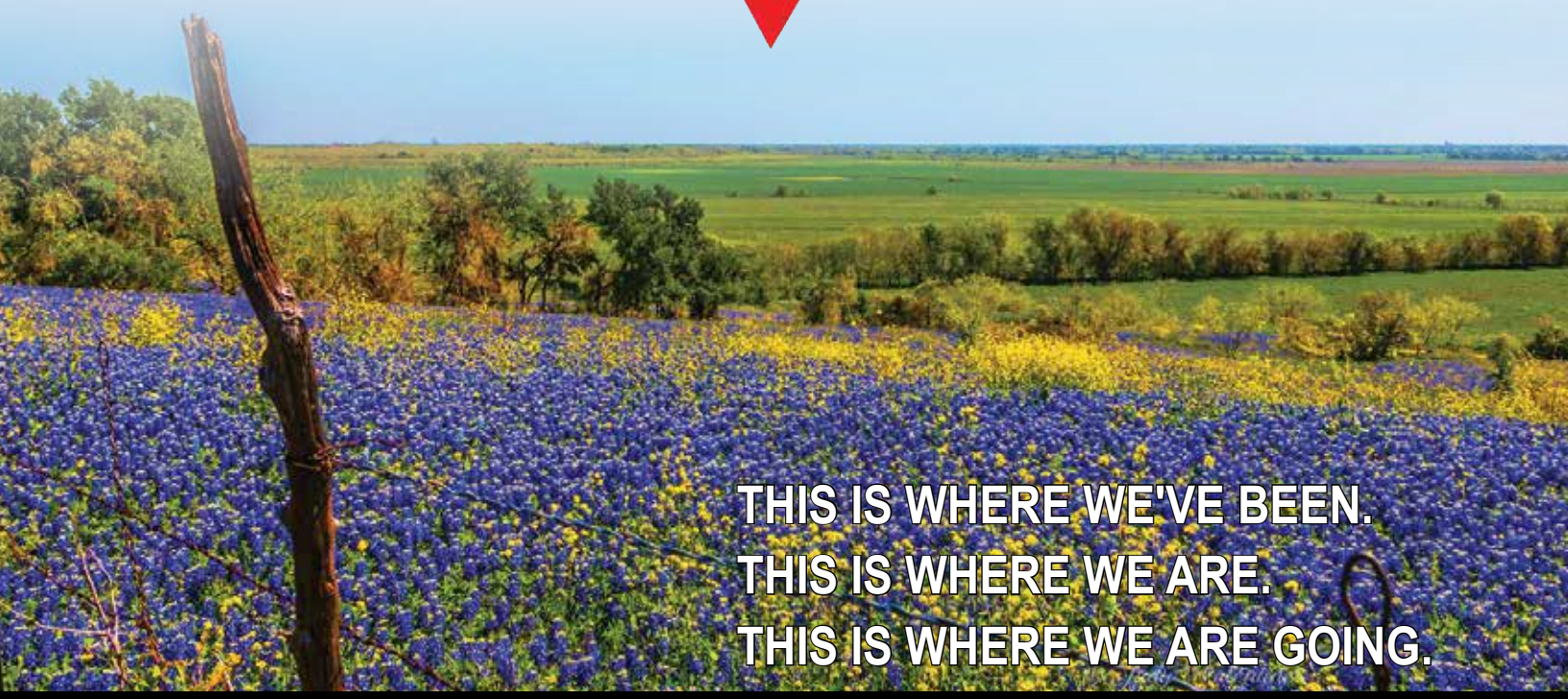

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COVID-19 Impacting Your B2B Operations?

Here's How to Move Your Receivables Online

By Sara Sajwaj

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has created a lot of concerns and uncertainties for B2B organizations. From office cleanliness, to supply chain disruption, to business continuity, business leaders are scrambling to keep their organizations operational and profitable while protecting themselves, their employees, and their customers.

Compared to B2C payments, B2B payments are very much still in the "dark ages"—64% of B2B organizations continue to use paper checks and invoices. But, in the age of COVID-19, many businesses are beginning to see the benefits of going digital. Here are 3 steps to quickly move your B2B receivables online.

1. Unleash the virtual terminal

Your organization accepts credit cards, but it's not your preferred form of payment. It's time to change that. COVID-19 likely has your employees working from home, and your clients are probably experiencing the same. If you're still relying on paper checks and invoices, cash flow will suffer. So, it's time to unleash the virtual terminal. Here are some of the great features our proprietary virtual terminal and payment gateway offers to help you digitize your receivables process.

Simultaneous logins. Your users aren't operating out of the same office anymore, so what happens when multiple employees need to accept payments at the same time? Simultaneous login capabilities mean your users can handle their job functions independently, from any device with an internet connection.

Tiered access. With your employees off-site, making sure they have access to the information they need, and NOT the information they don't need, is imperative. With our virtual terminal, access to payment processing, transaction reporting, and customer details can be restricted on a user-by-user basis.

Click-to-pay invoicing. If your employees aren't in your office, and your clients' employees aren't in their offices, it's just not practical to send paper invoices, cut checks, get signatures, etc. And that's not even taking into consideration the potential security problems raised by having such sensitive information available in employees' homes. Click-to-pay invoicing allows specified users to generate and send digital invoices that reduce paperwork and allow clients to make payments effortlessly and securely.

Text to pay functionality. This feature offers ultimate flexibility and convenience to your clients. You create an invoice within your virtual terminal and send it directly to your client's mobile device. Then, all they have to do is click a link and enter their payment details to complete the transaction. This makes for a truly seamless payment experience, even if a customer is stuck at home without access to their work computer or email.

2. Educate your employees

Now that you know what our virtual terminal is truly capable of, it's time to make sure your employees know how to use it. To encourage employee buy-in, explain how this tool can help them with their day-to-day responsibilities (reducing paperwork, improving ease-of-use, etc.) and how it will allow your business

to remain operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If any of your employees need access to your virtual terminal, or if existing users need additional training, please reach out to us.

3. Communicate with your customers

Once you and your employees are comfortable with your virtual terminal, it's time to share the good news with your customers.

Make sure they know that you're still available to support them and that you're offering new and improved online invoicing and payment options to streamline their experience and ease their own accounts payable processes. This lets them know you're committed to getting through this difficult time, together.

Final thoughts

Paper checks and invoices just don't offer the flexibility businesses need to withstand COVID-19. B2B payment innovation is necessary to continue your operations right now, but also to future-proof them. Change can be tough, but we're here to be a resource for your business. If you need to transition your receivables online due to COVID-19, please reach out to us.

BASYS Processing is a TPGA member and TPGA affinity partner. BASYS Processing provides credit card and debit card processing services, and solutions that include terminals, virtual terminals, e-commerce, mobile, and point-of-sale, customized to fit any need.

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Other propane owners have come to our agency to get help with connecting their insurance pieces:

1) Some have grown frustrated with the lack of timely response and personal service from their current agent.

2) Many have discovered a missing piece of coverage after meeting with us.

3) Most tell us they have no idea what companies insure their industry and are surprised to learn there are multiple options available.

Jack Walzel
Tri-Co Propane/TPGA President

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2020 CROSSROADS
PROPANE EXPO+CONFERENCE

Welcome to the Capital of Texas

Austin is the state capital of Texas, a city bordering the Hill Country region of Texas. It is home to the University of Texas flagship campus, several other colleges, and is known for its eclectic live-music scene centered around country, blues and rock. Austin is also home to a wonderful ballet, world-class museums, one-of-a-kind shopping and beautiful outdoor spaces. The many parks and lakes are popular for hiking, biking, swimming and boating.

Visiting the Texas Capitol building and grounds comes highly recommended. Learning more about the historic building with FREE 30-minute tours where you can walk the halls and take pictures. Tours run from 8:30a – 4:30p Monday through Friday, departing every 30 to 45 minutes. Tours run from noon to 3:30p on Sundays.

You can pick up a FREE self-guided tour pamphlet from the Capitol Information and Guide Service room or the Capitol Visitors Center and enjoy roaming the building and the surrounding grounds from 7:00a to 10:00p on weekdays or 9:00a to 8:00p on weekends. There is a parking garage located about two blocks away from the Capitol at 1201 San Jacinto St and the first two hours of parking are FREE.

Fun Facts About the Texas Capitol

- The three-story Sunset Red Texas granite structure is the largest capitol building in the US, standing 14 feet higher than the US Capitol building (things really are bigger in Texas!).
- Keep an eye out for the giant brass hinges and the detailed handrails throughout the building.
- Look closely at the brass chandeliers in the House of Representative Chamber and you will find that the light bulbs spell out T-E-X-A-S.
- The Capitol grounds are comprised of about 22 acres in the heart of downtown Austin, so there's plenty more to see! Featur-

ing 17 monuments, historic buildings and trees. Pick up a FREE brochure and monuments map from the Capitol Information and Guide Service room or the Capitol Visitors Center.

- The Capitol Visitors Center showcases an ever-changing set of interesting and educational exhibits.
- Stop by the Capitol Grill, located in the Capitol Extension, to refuel. The grill offers breakfast, lunch and grab-and-go selections – anything from a Texas-sized pancake to a delicious burger. And the famous Texas Chili Parlor is nearby if you want to partake their world-class chili.

Austin Outdoor Activities

On average, Austin gets more than 300 days of sunshine each year. One of the best places to go to enjoy some of that sunshine is Lady Bird Lake. Whether you are hiking or biking the trails, doing stand-up paddle board yoga, or taking a river cruise, you'll find no shortage of outdoor fun to be had.

The Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail is over 10 miles long and makes a complete circuit around Lady Bird Lake. It is one of the oldest urban hike and bike paths in Texas. The trail is mostly flat and composed of crushed granite making it a great place to go for a jog with friends, take a nice bike rider, or walk the dog.

The boardwalk is a part of the Ann and Roy Butler Trail, but it has a unique vantage point. The angle offers an amazing view of the downtown skyline, so it's a great place to linger and watch a sunset or sunrise.

Dog lovers will be happy to know that Austin is one of the most dog-friendly cities in the country. With abundant trails, outdoor spaces, and dogs around every corner, pups should have no problem finding playmates for the time of their lives. Auditorium Shores Dog Park is on the water side of Riverside Drive, and it has a spacious off-leash area for dogs to roam.

The City of Austin officially outlawed personal motorized boats on Lady Bird Lake, making it perfect for kayaks and canoes. There are a number of places to rent canoes, kayaks, rowing shells and dragon boats on the lake. The three places to start are the Texas Rowing Center, Congress Avenue Kayaks, and the Paddle Shack. Some offer special events like sunset or full moon paddles, so you can enjoy the lake at all hours.

Let's say you want to enjoy the water, but you don't want to expend any effort. You want to sip a beer and enjoy the sunset over the water. You need Capital Cruises or Lone Star Riverboat. Both offer dinner and lunch cruises. The local companies also have special sightseeing cruises, perfect for out-of-towners or locals alike. The two companies also offer bat-watching cruises.

The Mexican free-tailed bats that make their home under the Congress Avenue bridge create an unforgettable sight when they emerge during bat season between March and November. Sitting by the lake at sunset, you can witness the miracle of the bat swarm every night.

The 2020 Crossroads TPGA Propane Expo & Conference schedule leaves you time to take in some of what makes Austin special. So what are you waiting for?

TPGA Convention Extras:

10 Things Your Kids Will Love in Austin!

Make sure to bring your entire family to enjoy all that Austin has to offer. We've got great ideas for fun family activities they'll love, from swimming holes and food trucks, to kid-friendly live music and museums that welcome curious little explorers.

1. Let the kids run free at Zilker Park. Explore nature at Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin Nature & Science Center and UMLAUF Sculpture Garden and Museum. Then take a ride around the park aboard the Zilker Zephyr miniature train and blow off steam at the nearby playground.

2. Go sightseeing by land and water with Austin Duck Adventures, where you'll ride an amphibious vehicle around town, including down historic Sixth Street and past the Texas State Capitol, before splashing into Lake Austin.

3. A local family tradition since 1948, the kitschy Peter Pan Mini Golf will delight kids and parents alike. Two 18-hole mini golf courses are filled with colorful characters (including a towering T. rex and Peter Pan himself) and challenging obstacles.

4. Take the family for a stroll down South Congress Avenue, where funky shops create a lively vibe. Take a family picture at the famous I Love You So Much mural and let the kids pick out penny candies at the circus-themed Big Top Candy Shop.

5. Pack up the kiddos and blankets and head out to Zilker Hillside Theater to watch this year's free Summer Musical, Mamma Mia, performed under the stars July 10–Aug. 14, 2020, Thursdays through Sundays.

6. Lady Bird Lake is the perfect destination for family outings. The Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail skirts along Lady Bird Lake for 10 miles, with amazing downtown views and a well-maintained trail that's easy on strollers and children's bikes. Or get out on the water with a guided kayak tour.

7. Some of Austin's best live music series are also family friendly. Stop in the Oak Garden at Güero's Taco Bar on Wednesdays for the Texas Radio Live series presented by Sun Radio.

8. Every Thursday night from April through mid-September, Shady Grove and Austin City Limits Radio team up to present Unplugged at the Grove, featuring local musicians. Austin City Limits Radio also hosts Blues on the Green, a summertime concert series held in Zilker Park.

9. You can't leave Austin without experiencing at least one of its beloved barbecue joints. Stubb's Bar-B-Q is known for its Sunday Gospel Brunch, featuring a mouthwatering buffet of Southern-style foods and rousing live music.

10. Take a dip in one of Austin's spring-fed swimming holes, located in the heart of the city. Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park maintains a refreshing temperature of 68–70 degrees year round, and has plenty of grassy areas to spread out. Deep Eddy Pool is the oldest pool in the state, and shows poolside movies in the summer.

Elmer Atkins Memorial Golf Tournament

Sponsored by Targa Resources

Friday, July 24, 2020 8:00a – 1:00p

Onion Creek Golf Club
2510 Onion Creek Parkway, Austin, 78747

$150/player • $600/team of 4
Includes: greens fee, breakfast, awards lunch

Onion Creek Club is one of the most historic clubs in Central Texas, established in 1974 by Austin native Jimmie Connolly and golfer Jimmy Demaret. In 1996 another famous central Texas golfer, Ben Crenshaw, built another nine holes that was blended into Demaret's original design – which means that during your round you'll play some holes from each designer.

Demaret had the vision to let the lay of the land dictate the course layout, and that understanding of course design created

a beautiful and challenging course. His design is more of a shot makers course with tight tree lined fairways and small guarded greens, while Crenshaw's nine is much more traditional, very forgiving with wide open fairways, and much larger greens.

Bottom line – Onion Creek offers an interesting and fun layout, good conditions, and friendly service.

RRC 6.1 Regulatory Training
June 23, 2020 • Fairmont Hotel

Join us on Thursday, June 23, 2020 as the Alternative Fuel Safety (AFS) Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)hosts an RRC 6.1 Regulatory Training, continuing education geared towards managers.

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Crossroads Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, July 23, 2020

10:00a – 5:00p	Registration/ badge pickup
12:00p – 5:00p	Training

Dinner on your own

Friday, July 24, 2020

7:00a – 5:30p	Registration/ badge pickup
7:00a – 5:00p	Exhibitor move-in according to schedule
8:00a – 1:00p	Golf tournament
8:00a – 1:00p	Other sporting event
5:00p – 6:00p	Welcome

Dinner on your own/Supplier dinners

Saturday, July 25, 2020

7:00a – 3:00p	Registration/ badge pickup
10:00a – 4:00p	Expo with lunch
5:00p – 6:00p	President's Cocktails
6:00p – 10:00p	Gala

Fairmont Austin to Play Host to Attendees

Hotel Cut Off Deadline July 2, 2020

The Fairmont Austin, a Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star property, offers luxury in downtown Austin. The 37-story hotel features 1,048 richly appointed guest rooms and suites with picturesque views of Lady Bird Lake, the Austin cityscape and the Capitol. Guests experience personalized service, unique views, five-star restaurant and bar offerings, fitness facility, seasonally heated swimming pool on the 7th floor and an award-winning spa. The hotel is located at 101 Red River St, Austin, TX 78701. Both valet parking and self-parking are available.

The 7th floor terrace features an elegant, seasonally heated pool with zero entry for chaise lounging in the water, 13 exclusive cabanas and 1 grand cabana. Pool access daily 6:00am – 10:00pm, poolside food service Sunday – Thursday 11:00am – 5:00pm, Friday and Saturday 11:00am – 7:00pm. Poolside beverage service daily 11:00am – sunset.

The fitness center located on the 6th floor features ceiling-to-floor windows, overlooking the lush greenery of Palm Park. This innovative gym space offers an intuitive fitness facility. From technologically advanced equipment such as SKILLMILL, the curved treadmill system that has become a training standard in the NBA and NFL gyms, to Peloton bikes for on demand indoor spinning and cycling classes with live-streaming world-class instructors, Fairmont Austin is reinventing how travelers stay fit.

The hotel offers a Business Center on the 2nd floor and offers virtually everything you need for your business needs. Check-in is 3:00pm and check-out is 11:00am. The Concierge is available 24 hours daily in the Main Lobby of the hotel. They can help you with dinner reservations and give you directions to major attractions.

The hotel welcomes pets weighing up to 25 pounds for a one-time fee of $150. The pet must be on a leash at all times and must not be left unattended in the room.

Deluxe guestrooms will be offered at a discounted rate of $199+tax per night, single/double. Participants are responsible for reserving their own accommodations. Contact Reservations directly at 888-240-7773 and identify yourself with the Texas Propane Gas Association 2020 Propane Expo & Conference to receive the discount. **July 2, 2020** is cut-off for hotel reservations at the group discounted rate.

No third-party providers are used for rooming at this conference. If you are contacted by a travel agency in reference to this conference, note that they have no affiliations with this event. Hotel rooms in the discounted group block are reserved for attendees, their attending family members, exhibitors, sponsors, and Show staff.

Crossroads Propane Expo Offers One-Stop Shopping

The Crossroads Propane Expo will be held 10:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday, July 25, 2020 at the Austin Convention Center (exhibit Hall 1), located at 500 E Cesar Chavez St in Austin.

The Expo is the centerpiece of the three-day event – a one-stop shopping experience to meet all your propane-marketing needs. Dozens of propane suppliers come prepared with their latest trends and greatest technologies, ready to present innovative new ideas to improve your operations, saving you time and money.

The Expo is a treasure trove of inspired creativity, smart solutions, and great deals. Not only does it let propane marketers consolidate the purchasing process from a timeline of weeks [online, on the phone, or in a catalogue] to a single day [in person], but it's also a prime opportunity to do some easy comparison-shopping. And many suppliers offer exclusive expo pricing incentives or tradeshow specials – so marketers should come prepared to buy.

Silent Auction Benefitting the TPGA Scholarship Fund

We will once again host our silent auction on the Expo floor on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Proceeds will benefit the TPGA Scholarship Foundation. The auction will close at 3:30pm on July 25, 2020.

Remember, BID IT UP. IT'S FOR EDUCATION.

Have a Nagging Question? Answer: Regulatory Pavilion

Returning to the Expo this year is the Regulatory Pavilion. It gives propane industry professionals an opportunity to engage with state and federal regulators on your questions.

About the Convention Center

The Austin Convention Center is a USGBC LEED Gold EB certified venue location in the heart of Austin, Texas, the capital of the Lone Star State. The Convention Center runs on 100 percent renewable energy from Austin Energy's Green Choice Program. Their team has also diverted 50 percent of all waste generated from landfills with an extensive recycling, reuse, composting program.

Annual Retail Sales of Propane Reports

Due June 1, 2020

Beginning April 1, 2020, propane marketers across the country, including Texas, are able to submit their Sale of Propane reports for the 2019 calendar year. The annual retail sales of propane survey is conducted by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) in partnership with ICF, its new reporting partner.

This is the second year ICF is collecting the data. This survey was previously done by the American Petroleum Institute (API) on behalf of PERC, the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA), and the GPA Midstream Association, and was published as a report titled "Sales of Natural Gas Liquids and Liquefied Refinery Gases."

This survey is being conducted as part of PERC's annual assessment of odorized propane sales that is mandated by the 1996 Propane Education and Research Act (PERA), a Congressional act. This yearly assessment influences how the organization allocates its rebates of assessments to individual states and how PERC invests its resources in various program incentives. PERA requires PERC to allocate at least 20 percent of the funds that the organization collects each year as a rebate to the state propane associations in an amount proportional to the amount of odorized propane gas sold in each state.

The accurate and timely completion of the Annual Retail Propane Sales Survey is a critical component of PERC's annual budgeting process. Due to the importance of this survey, it is imperative that each survey respondent completes this form accurately and in a timely manner to ensure that each state receives the proper level of rebate dollars.

ICF and the PERC understand that the U.S. retail propane market is a highly competitive market. Any and all company and contact information that is collected as part of this annual report will be CONFIDENTIAL and reported in aggregate.

Submission

Please submit your 2019 Sales of Propane Report at https://www.propanesalessurvey.com/ by June 1, 2020 so Texas gets our fair share of PERC dollars.

At the above web url, you can also download past Sales of Propane Reports showing aggregate data for the entire country, including the Lone Star State.

Questions? Please contact 855-846-2924 (toll-free) 8AM – 6PM CST or email SalesReport@propane.com.

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Intersection Safety

According to the Federal Highway Administration, approximately 2.5 million intersection accidents occur each year. Most of those crashes involve left turns. More sobering statistics: 50% of serious collisions happen in intersections, and 20% of fatal collisions occur in intersections. It is always a good time to brush up on intersection safety.

Approaching the Intersection

Make sure you are in the correct lane before you reach the intersection.

Be aware of other driver's blind spots and stay out of them.

Always use your turn signal.

Avoid distractions like cell phone use or loud music.

Keep your hands on the wheel and be prepared to brake.

Match the pace of the car in front of you when slowing down.

Anticipate when cars are going to slow down or come to a stop by watching brake lights.

Do not tailgate.

Keep a safe distance between you and the car in front of you. A distance of one car length is recommended. This way if you get rear-ended you will not crash into the car in front of you.

Inspect the intersection. Look for signs, lights, signals, pedestrians, etc. Be aware of anything that could potentially cause an accident.

Watch for other vehicles and be aware of their intentions. This will help you react defensively.

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Keep your wheel straight and your foot on the brake while waiting to cross the intersection.

Safety at a Stop Sign

Be sure to stop at the painted line or behind the curb.

Know who has the right of way. Whoever reaches the intersection first goes first. If multiple cars arrive at the same time, the car to the right goes first. If there is confusion about who has the right of way, it is safest to let the other driver go first or wait until they signal you to do so.

If there is a car in front of you, wait 2 seconds before moving forward in case they make a sudden stop or someone else runs the stop sign.

Never run a stop sign, even if it looks like there is no one else at the intersection.

Use your turn signal.

Safety at a Stop Light

Never run a red light.

When the light turns yellow, evaluate your speed, distance to the light and the time the light has been yellow. If there is time to cross the intersection, proceed with caution. Never accelerate through a yellow light.

Do not proceed as soon as the light turns green. Look both ways to be sure the other cars are stopping.

Do not proceed through the intersection until there is room on the other side. Never wait in the center of the intersection.

When making a right turn at a red light, be sure to come to a complete stop first. Make sure there are no posted restrictions. Check for vehicles cyclists and pedestrians before executing the turn.

When making a left turn, wait for the arrow. If there is no arrow or if it is legal to turn without the arrow, be aware of oncoming traffic before making the turn.

If the traffic lights are not functioning, treat the intersection as a four way stop.

Safety at a Roundabout

Be aware that the vehicles in the roundabout have the right of way.

Never stop in the roundabout unless traffic requires it.

Stay in your lane.

Always use your signal to enter and exit the roundabout.

Watch for pedestrians and cyclists. Roundabouts can be more dangerous for them.

Be mindful of other drivers. Since roundabouts are somewhat uncommon, some motorists are unsure of how to navigate them.

Proceeding Through the Intersection

Never enter the intersection if the traffic is backed up.

Wait until you can safely travel completely through to the other side.

Never change lanes in the middle of the intersection. Not only is it dangerous, it is illegal!

Follow the pace of traffic so your actions are predictable to others.

If a vehicle is stopped at or in the middle of the intersection, proceed with caution. Watch for hazards that may have caused the other motorist to stop.

Always watch for cross traffic. Others may be running a red light or stop sign.

This article is courtesy of information compiled by Crum & Forster. This material is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to be a representation of coverage that may exist in any particular situation under a policy issued by one of the companies within Crum & Forster.

Last Chance TPGA Scholarship Applications Deadline May 15, 2020

Don't miss out on your chance to enter our scholarship application from the Texas Propane Gas Association Scholarship Foundation.

For over 20 plus years, the Texas Propane Gas Association has provided scholarships to our members' children and grandchildren to attend 2 year college, 4 year university or trade school.

Eligible students who will be attending full-time in one of these schools for 2020-2021 school year can apply for the scholarship competition round.

Any employee of TPGA member company Texas children and grandchildren are eligible to enter.

Eligible Texas student applicants can complete online application, upload SAT or ACT test scores and have their schools send transcripts directly to the association.

Transcripts do not need to include 2nd semester 2020 grades. Application deadline is May 15, 2020 before the 2nd term ends.

Learn more and apply at https://www.txpropane.com/scholarship.

Questions? Please call (800)325-7427 or email jmason@txpropane.com.

New Propane Safety Booklet Available Duty to Warn for Commercial & Industrial Users

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) has developed a new safety booklet designed for the commercial and industrial propane consumers, which includes general safety information about how to safely use propane in the workplace.

The 39 page booklet covers:

- Propane Safety Basics
- If You Smell Gas
- Carbon Monoxide
- Equipment Safety
- Propane on the Jobsite: Tank Safety
- Propane Cylinder Safety
- Other Safety Situations & Precautions

The safety booklet is available through Propane Service Corporation (PSC) in bundles of 25 per pack (Sku: PRC-009707). Order by contacting PSC at (800)392-0023 or visiting www.propaneservicecorp.com.

Subscribe Your Customers to Summer Propane Living Deadline June 1, 2020

The Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT) invites Texas propane retailers to subscribe their customers to the Summer edition of Propane Living.

The consumer newsletter is sent to over 100,000 each quarter.

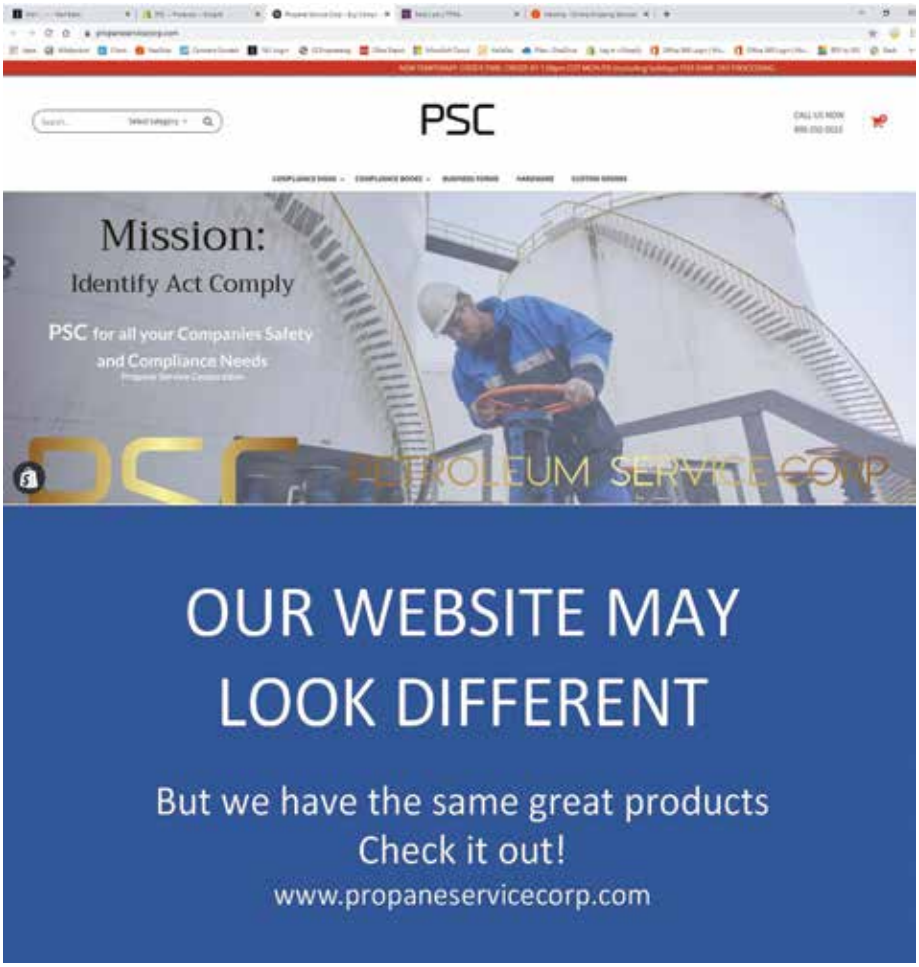
ProCOT covers the postage and shipping! For the Summer 2020 edition, participants are responsible for a $49 per company fulfillment fee per quarter plus, .036 (less than 4 cents) per newsletter processing fee.

The newsletter helps retain the flame by featuring home propane applications and reminds them why they fell in love with propane, promotes propane safety and includes a seasonal propane recipe.

Sign up for Summer 2020! Register and upload your mailing lists at www.procot.org by June 1, 2020.

Spring Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) Meeting Approves More Funding for Workforce Recruitment & Development

On April 9, 2020, the Propane Education & Research Council convened and approved two programs to generate awareness about the propane industry's career opportunities and to drive engagement with propane companies with job



openings or entities offering workforce recruitment programs. The third approved funding request will be used to support workforce training in Alabama.

The Council approved the following funding requests:

Docket 22494: 2020 Workforce Outreach Support $250,000, will create awareness of the propane industry as a viable career choice for several segments of the potential workforce (students, veterans, and those transitioning) through partnerships with states and marketers and creating the tools and resources to best implement the program at a local level.

Docket 22495: 2020 Technical School Grant Program $400,000, will provide up to $10,000 in grants to upgrade and expand the labs of technical schools and career centers interested in teaching propane curriculum to current and future students. Additionally, this program will provide the marketing and communications support necessary to promote the program.

Docket 22511: Training Tablets $12,230, to permit the Propane Education Foundation of Alabama to use its state rebate funds to purchase 26 tablets to use for workforce classroom training and exams.

The Council tabled a fourth workforce outreach proposal:

Docket 22500: PERC Region 2 Military Education & Recruitment Program, $196,337.

Propane industry employers can download current workforce recruitment tools on the Council's website at https://propane.com/resource-catalog/resources/workforce-development-outreach-materials/

The next PERC Council meeting is scheduled for July 21-22, 2020 in Beaver Creek, CO.

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MAY

7
LPG Charity Bowling Tournament
Houston, TX
CANCELED

11-14
Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo
Long Beach, CA
POSTPONED

15
TPGA Scholarship Applications Due
www.txpropane.com

19-20
TPGA Board & Related Committee Meetings
Waco, TX
CANCELED

25
TPGA office closed for Labor Day

JUNE

June 1
Summer Propane Living Subscription Deadline
www.procot.org

14-17
NPGA Presidential Forum, Annual Meeting & Propane Days
Washington, D.C.

15-18
NFPA Conference & Expo
Orlando, FL
CANCELED

26
Crossroads Early Bird Registration Cut-off

30
TERP Texas Clean Fleet Application Deadline

JULY

2
Crossroads Hotel Cut-off

21-22
PERC Council Meeting
Beaver Creek, CO

23-25
2020 Crossroads TPGA Propane Expo & Conference
Austin, TX

AUGUST

20-21
2020 Can Do Conference
Minneapolis, MN

24-26
2020 Green Transportation Summit & Expo
Tacoma, WA

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Propane in the Time of Pandemic

Propane personnel around the country have remained on the front lines of the current COVID-19 pandemic, providing essential energy to their customers. Usually the industry goes to battle with mother nature; this is a different type of battle. One that involves PPE and social distancing.

It is no surprise that propane is on the front lines with the medical response teams to the pandemic as well. Propane marketers from around the country have responded to calls to provide propane for generator and heating sources for COVID-19 testing tents that have been put up in parking lots.

Of course, our propane providers are doing everything they can to provide safe, reliable energy to hospitals and medical facilities. Hats off to everyone doing what they can to get to the other side of this pandemic.

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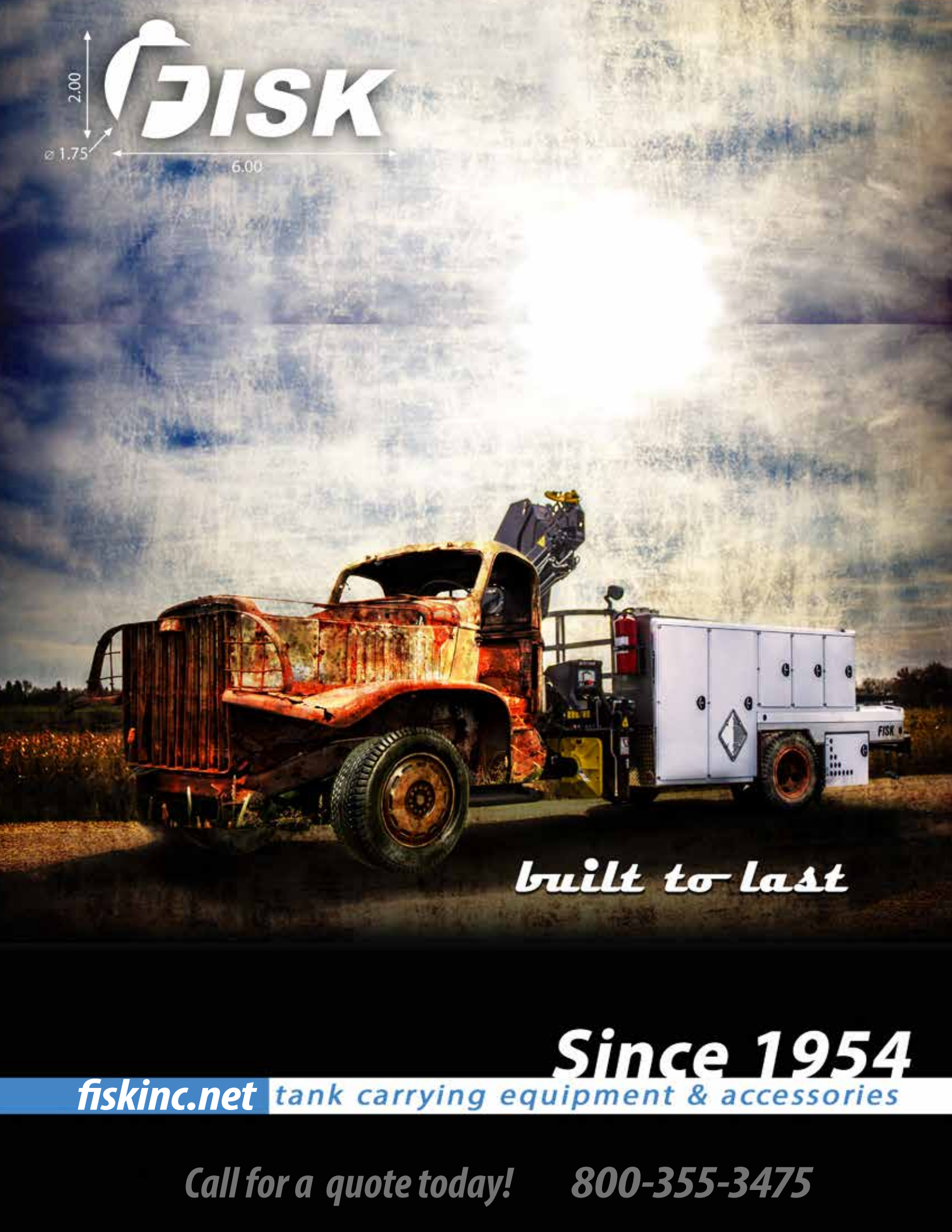
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