

The Fire Cause Investigator



An Engineering and Fire Investigative Newsletter

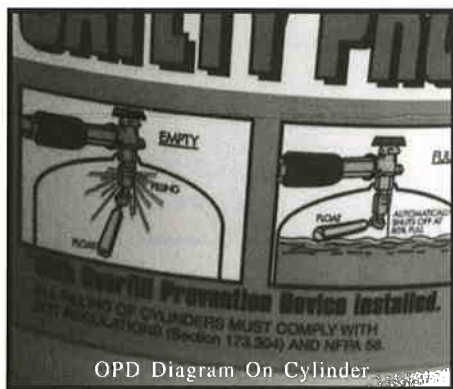
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Fire Cause Investigations / a division of SEAL Corporation

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DOES YOUR PROPANE GAS CYLINDER HAVE OPD?

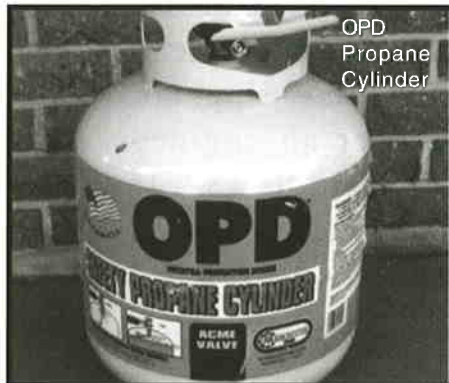
That is the question on a lot of people's minds lately. A new federal and state regulation went into effect April 1, 2002 requiring all propane cylinders under 10 gallons to have an Overfill Protection Device (OPD). Older model propane cylinders will not be able to be refilled. Most propane suppliers are offering new tanks with OPDs or separate OPDs to install on your tank. However, several locations sell the OPD for the cylinder owner to install themselves.



This practice can cause a release of propane and explosions, if owners are not trained in the proper handling of propane gas.

Know if your cylinder has an approved OPD

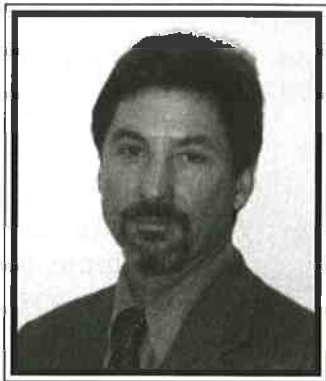
Simply look at the top of the shut-off handle. It will have a unique three-corner handle. The letters "OPD" are stamped in the topside. There is a sticker on the bottle identifying it as the "OPD" style. The size cylinders involved are commonly used for gas grills.



The Functions of an OPD

The OPD comes into use during the filling of the bottle. A float on the OPD inside the tank will rise with the input of gas. When the tank reaches the eighty percent mark, the float causes the inlet valve to no longer accept gas flow and releases the gas out the overflow vent. Propane requires a headspace for the vapors of the liquid propane to collect. We use the vapors for appliances not the liquid. Another major concern we are seeing more of these days is due to the increase of methamphetamine manufacturing. The drug is commonly referred to as 'crank'. Manufacturers of this illegal substance are using propane cylinders for the storage and use of anhydrous ammonia. A blue-green stain on any brass portion of a service valve is evidence it may have been used for this process. The chemical will attack the threads of the shut-off valve causing possible ruptures and explosions. One final note on propane cylinders. At least two cases have occurred when teenagers purchasing exchange tanks from local convenient stores sniffed the propane in their vehicles. In both cases loss of life occurred.

FIRE CAUSE INVESTIGATIONS PROUDLY INTRODUCES



MR. KURT C. MYERS, Special Investigator

Fire Cause Investigations, (FCI), a division of System Engineering And Laboratories Corporation located in Lafayette, Louisiana, proudly presents to you the newest member of our staff, Mr. Kurt Myers.

Mr. Myers comes to us with extensive training and experience with K-9 fire investigations. He has two (2) accelerant detecting dogs and has been highly successful in his field. With his experience and training, he is a great asset to our company and we are very proud to have him with us.

While SEAL Corporation/FCI offers engineering and fire investigative consulting and expert witness services nationwide, Kurt, more specifically, will be serving the Louisiana, Southeast Texas, and Mississippi areas. To contact Kurt for assignments, or an engineer, call our 24 Hour Service Center at 800-432-4669 or 800-624-0905.

SEAL Corporation

System Engineering And Laboratories Corporation is an independent testing laboratory, forensic engineering and investigative consulting firm.



Fire Cause Investigations is a division of SEAL corporation.

For additional information regarding contents of this newsletter, FCI or SEAL Corporation contact us at:

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