

# OH Schit...



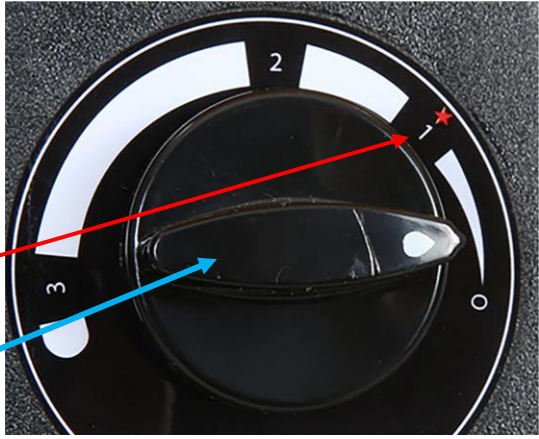
— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 1/9/2023

Division/Project: Reno / Redwood Site

Title: Propane Gas Smell in Apollo Break Tent



<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>What the *#\$\$!?</u></b></p> <p>Pedro Mascorro, night shift safety coordinator for Samuel Engineering, reported that during the day, Apollo left a heater running in their lunch tent to apply heat overnight to a water tank that's on a trailer, but they didn't ignite the flame in the heater. So, when I (Pedro) went in to inspect a wall of propane hit me, I held my breath and went in to turn off the propane and the fan in the heater. I waited outside of the tent for it to clear out then I went in and re-started the propane and the heater correctly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Turn temperature knob to 1.</li><li>2) Depress temperature knob to activate igniter.</li></ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Did we get that on film?</u></b></p> 
<p><b><u>Lady Luck highlights of what went right</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No one was injured.</li><li>• The Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) was not attained in the tent or the electricity powering the fan would have ignited the gas and we would have experienced an explosion of three (3) 100-pound propane tanks. Had this occurred, we would have made the evening news.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Oops!</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just like a modern stove, once you turn on the gas it will continue to flow until you turn it off. In the case of the propane heater, once you turn on the gas, it will continue to flow until the tank is empty or until you turn the valve off. In these examples, you must depress the temperature level knob to activate the igniter, or the gas will not burn and will fill the room.</li><li>• An untrained person set up the propane heater.</li><li>• Heaters shall not be left unattended.</li></ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Would of, Could of, Should of</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We should have facilitated training in the operation of propane heaters.</li><li>• We should have retained the operator's instructions.</li><li>• We need to work smart.</li><li>• We could have had an explosion resulting in a fire thereby receiving unwanted advertising on the evening news.</li><li>• We could have killed someone.</li><li>• We now store the water buffalo inside the shop and turn off the heaters at the end of the first shift.</li></ul> <p><b>Lessons Learned:</b></p> <p>We need to teach Apollo family members :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to use a propane heater.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How to connect a new propane tank to a heater and how to check for leaks.</li><li>○ When not in use, propane heaters shall have the valve turned off and the hose and regulator removed from the tank. This shall occur daily.</li></ul></li><li>• Apollo family members need to be encouraged to ask for training and assistance with processes that are new to them.</li></ul>
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