



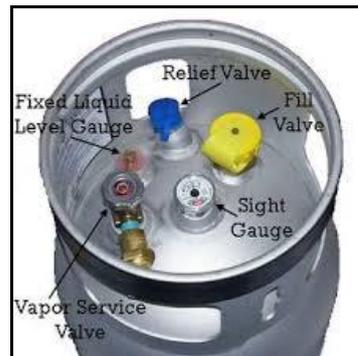
SAFETY ALERT LPG - Burn to hand

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WHS Issue

- A worker received a 3rd degree burn due to the escape of LPG gas from a fork lift truck cylinder.
- In its liquid stored form LPG is cold enough to cause severe burns if contact with the skin occurs
- The worker was checking the truck in a pre-operational check without wearing PPE including gloves.
- The hose connection from the cylinder to the truck came loose and gas escaped.
- The workers instinct was to attempt to stop the leak by placing the hose back in the socket which he did successfully however the escaping gas caused a 3rd Degree Burn to his hand and fingers.

Contributing Factors

- Poorly fitted gas cylinder connection at time of fitting
- Worker was not wearing PPE when completing the Pre Operational Checklist

Corrective actions required

- Reinstruction of all workers in the safe fitting of LPG gas cylinders
- Always complete a pre operational check prior to commencing work for the day on the forklift
- Always wear correct PPE when performing a Pre operational check

Key Learnings

- Always perform a pre operational check on all machinery / plant prior to using
- When performing the pre operational check always wear correct PPE including gloves, long sleeve shirt, long pants and safety glasses.
- If there is a gas leak on the cylinder attempt to isolate the gas at the stop valve only if it is safe to do so.
- If it is not safe to do so the emergency evacuation procedure MUST take place and the Fire Service Must be notified to control the Hazardous and explosive gas.



Pre Operational Checklist: Always ensure the drivers of the forklift trucks are performing a preoperational checklist: Below is a list of some things that should be included in the check list. (Please note that the pre operational checklist should be designed by the employer with specifics from the type of vehicle used in the workplace)

Prior to starting the ignition

- Check for wear and damage on the tyres, pressure if applicable
- Check all fluid levels, oil, hydraulic, battery and coolant
- Check the seating and adjustment
- Check warning devices, horn, flashing lights, reversing sound,
- Check the Capacity of the fork truck is clearly marked
- Check the lifting mast for wear and tear
- Check the Tines are in place, lockable and in good working order
- Check the seat belt is in good working order
- Check that all guards are in place
- Check the LPG Cylinder is in date and in good working order with no leaks
- Check that the forklift is registered if it needs to be driven on a road

After starting the ignition

- Check all controls are operational
- Check brakes are operating correctly including park break.

Ensure the workplace is properly designed for the use of forklift trucks: If a forklift is used in your workplace always ensure the following when designing your workspace:

- Are “no go” zones clearly marked or fenced off
- Is there a clear defined path for pedestrians and forklift truck drivers
- Where the paths of pedestrians and forklift truck drivers intersect, are there pedestrian crossings marked and used.
- Is there sufficient lighting to enable the best possible vision for the forklift truck driver
- Are road surfaces smooth and even throughout
- If there are blind spots for the forklift truck drivers are they marked and are there precautions in place to allow best possible vision for the pedestrian and the drivers. Eg Mirror, flashing lights, stop signs, crossings etc.

Ensure proper induction and ongoing training of forklift truck drivers:

- All of the above points should be used as a induction program for all new staff.
- Ongoing training to staff should be undertaken at regular intervals and after reported incidents or changes to the workplace.

ALWAYS ENSURE THAT YOU ARE WEARING A SEATBELT

The above information is not exhaustive and only to be used as a guide and a refresher to all of those involved in workplaces with forklift trucks operating. All workplaces should complete a full risk assessment prior to the implementation of forklift trucks operating. Please contact 1300apprentice OHS Manager if you want further information for this.

For further information refer to:

- <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/forkliftsafetyreducingtherisks.aspx>
- http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/WC00007_ForkLiftTruckDriversGuide.aspx