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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: July 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Composite Propane Cylinders

CERTAIN COMPOSITE PROPANE CYLINDERS TO BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE

The US DOT has issued the following advisory regarding certain composite propane cylinders. In previous advisories issued by our office, it was indicated that cylinders complying with DOT-SP 13957 were acceptable for use in the Commonwealth. While that is still true, we are bringing to your attention the failure of certain composite cylinders and the request of US DOT to remove those from service.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is requesting information on any container failures or leaks involving cylinders made under DOT-SP 13957, which include 10 pound, 20 pound, and 33-pound cylinders. The contact persons are Cheryl West Freeman at 202-366-4545 and Wayne Chaney at 202-834-3568.

The failed cylinders in question are manufactured through the use of two-part construction and are joined by adhesive, to form the completed cylinder. The cylinders have a permanently attached thermoplastic outer casing, which provides protection from impact damage and serves as a carry handle. The ruptured cylinders were manufactured by The Lite Cylinder Company Incorporated of Franklin, Tennessee, under DOT-SP 13957 in January 2007. The cylinders are marked DOT-SP 13957 followed by the service pressure, 294 psig. All of the failed cylinders were 33-pound cylinders, which were typically horizontally mounted to fuel forklift trucks.

Additional information including instructions on how to return the cylinders can be found at the company's web site www.litecylinder.com.

Further assistance is always available through the Office of the State Fire Marshal on this and similar issues. Please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western Mass. (413) 587-3181.

SDC/bhs