

# Piped Compressed Gas Safety Awareness

Piped gases are safe and so common we usually don't even think about them. But, everyone needs to be aware there are some things we have to do to keep it that way.



# Piped Compressed Gas Safety Awareness

Pipes carrying compressed gases, liquids or other materials must be properly labeled.



*Proper pipe labels.*



*Missing pipe labels.*

# Piped Compressed Gas Safety Awareness

Piped Compressed Gases may be piped in by utility lines (street gas) or from nearby tanks.



Tanks of compressed gases must be protected from vehicle impacts and properly labeled.



# Piped Compressed Gas Safety Awareness

Emergency shut-off valves must be identified and accessible in case of leaks or other emergencies.



Any site that has piped

compressed gases must have:

- Gas Shut-Off Valves Identified and Clear;
- Personnel assigned to:
  - Decide if it is safe to stay and shut off valves;
  - Shut the valves if safe to do so;
  - Decide if it is safe to shut down other equipment;
  - Decide and order evacuation if needed;
  - Coordinate with Emergency Personnel;

**See the Emergency Incident Response Procedures**

**The initial Evacuation Radius for a natural gas leak is 350 feet. This may be increased by order or Emergency Personnel.**

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*“Propane Tank Explosion Results in the Death of Two Volunteer Fire Fighters, Hospitalization of Six Other Volunteer Fire Fighters and a Deputy Sheriff – Iowa”*

## SUMMARY

On April 9, 1998, 20 fire fighters from a volunteer fire department responded to a propane tank fire. Upon arrival at the fire scene a decision was made to water down the buildings adjacent to the propane tank and allow the tank to burn itself out since the tank was venting. Some of the fire fighters positioned themselves between the burning propane tank and the sheds and were



watering down the buildings as the remaining fire fighters performed other tasks.

About 8 minutes after the fire fighters arrived on scene, the tank exploded. **When the tank exploded it separated into four parts and traveled in four different directions. Two fire fighters about 105 feet from the tank were struck by one piece of the exploding tank and killed instantly.** Six other fire fighters and a deputy sheriff, who had arrived on scene just before the explosion, were also injured.

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***Small mistakes =  
big consequences***

Potential:

- Lost lives,
- Serious Injury,
- Lost Jobs

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### Presenter Notes:

1. Presentation time: ~ 5 minutes.
2. **The presenter should be prepared to discuss the various types of piped compressed gases at the branch.**
3. **The site must have completed the Emergency Incident Response Procedures template, identified the required information and assigned responsible personnel.**
4. **The presenter should be thoroughly familiar with and ready to discuss the site's emergency procedures.**

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