



# Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

## Hazardous Materials: Parking LPG Cargo Vehicles

No. FP-2013-13 March 26, 2013

**Learning Objective:** The student should be able to list the conditions required for parking and garaging liquefied petroleum gas cargo vehicles.

Liquefied petroleum gas cargo vehicles transport millions of gallons of hazardous cargo along our roads and streets every year. What safeguards are in place when those vehicles complete their delivery routes and are parked at the end of the commercial day?

National Fire Protection Association 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, provides guidance for these vehicles that may be parked indoors or out.

LPG cargo vehicles should not be left unattended on any street, highway, avenue or alley, except for necessary absences from the vehicle associated with drivers' normal duties. These absences include stops for meals and rest stops during the day or night. As a matter of course, vehicles should not be parked in congested areas.

Exceptions to these requirements are permitted during emergencies or when vehicles are parked in uncongested areas.

- Where vehicles are parked off the street in uncongested areas, they should be at least 50 feet (15 meters) from any building used for assembly, institutional or multiple-family residential occupancy.
- Where cargo tank vehicles or vehicles carrying individual portable containers of 3,500 gallons (13 m<sup>3</sup>) water capacity or less are parked on streets adjacent to the driver's residence in uncongested residential areas, the parking locations should be at least 50 feet (15 m) from a building used for assembly, institutional or multiple-family residential occupancy.
- Each cargo tank vehicle or trailer should utilize a wheel stop (like the one illustrated), in addition to the parking or hand brake, whenever the cargo tank vehicle is loading, is unloading or is parked. A wheel stop may consist of a chock block, curb, or parking barrier at the parking point or other means to prevent the cargo tank vehicle from unintended movement. A wheel stop is not a substitute for an operable parking brake.
- Cargo tank vehicles parked in any public garage or building should have LPG liquid removed from the cargo tank, piping, pump, hose and related equipment. The pressure in the delivery hose and related equipment should be reduced to approximately atmospheric.
- All valves should be closed before the vehicle is moved indoors. Delivery hose or valve outlets should be plugged or capped before the vehicle is moved indoors.
- Vehicles used to carry portable containers should not be moved into any public garage or building for parking until all portable containers have been removed from the vehicle.

Next week's Coffee Break Training will describe requirements for vehicles parked indoors at bulk LPG facilities.

For additional information, see NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, Chapter 9.



The wheel chock behind the rear axle of this liquefied petroleum gas cargo vehicle is one of several required safety features.



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