

Safety and health alert

24/96 Burns from car refuelling with LPG

Incident

In July 1996, a taxi driver suffered severe cold burns to his hand while refuelling his car with LPG gas at Whitfords. The injury resulted in 20 days off work.

Factors

- (a) The gas nozzle was held open by placing a spark plug beside the trigger of the nozzle, so the taxi driver did not have to hold onto the nozzle while refuelling, and allowing him to clean his taxi in the interim.
- (b) During the disconnection of the nozzle, the gas trapped in the hose came into contact with his right hand, causing the injury.

Recommendations

1. Service station operators, drivers and other personnel are to ensure that the trigger mechanism of the nozzle is not interfered with while refuelling.
2. In late 1992 the Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association Ltd acknowledged the potential hazard of cold burns from hold-open latches. They were then replaced by suppliers throughout Australia. Any old nozzles still in use with hold-open latches should be replaced immediately.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

Date: February 1996

A414276

