



TSSA Fuels Safety Program	Ref. No.: FS-141-08	Rev. No.:
NOTICE TO PROPANE TANKER OPERATORS	Date: October 21, 2008	Date:

Subject: Notice to Propane Tanker Operators regarding hazards germane to trailers and recreational vehicles
Sent to: Propane Fuels Advisory Council, Propane Risk Reduction Group, Licensed Propane Filling Plants, Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council (IGAC)

Notice to Propane Tanker Operators

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) would like to remind those who operate propane tanker trucks and dispense propane at trailer parks and/or campgrounds in the province to ensure that equipment is properly inspected and if hazards are found that the fuel supply is terminated until such non-compliances are corrected. A recent fatality helps underscore the seriousness of such regulatory requirements.

In September 2008, a campground incident in Bobcaygeon resulted in the unfortunate death of a trailer owner found in an attached, closed-in area next to the trailer. TSSA's investigation determined that the constructed enclosure had been built around the combustion exhaust vent, allowing a build-up of carbon monoxide (CO) in the closed-in area where the owner had succumbed to its poison.

CO is a colourless, odourless gas often produced in conjunction with the combustion of fuels such as propane, natural gas or fuel oil. The combustion products from appliances, such as trailer heaters, are vented to the outside through a vent on the external trailer wall (see photo below). If the exhaust is trapped in an enclosed space, any occupant could suffer toxic CO exposure.



**INLET AND EXHAUST
TERMINATION**

Its poison displaces oxygen in the body, causing the nervous system to completely shutdown. Symptoms are similar to those of the flu and can include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, disorientation and/or confusion. It can knock you unconscious or worse – lead to death – as in the case of the trailer owner.

Further investigation found additional trailers in the area with similar construction, and the propane to these units was subsequently locked off by TSSA inspectors.

While responsibility for maintaining equipment in a safe condition belongs to the user and owner of the equipment, fuel suppliers have very specific obligations. If you supply propane to cylinders at a trailer park, you are responsible – under Ontario Regulation 211/01 – to ensure the equipment to which it is attached is inspected prior to initial fuel delivery. Fuel cannot be supplied to equipment which has an immediate hazard and must be discontinued after 90 days if the non-compliance is not immediate. The regulation is in place for a reason: to serve public safety and seek to avoid casualties like the tragic trailer owner in Bobcaygeon.

Please find an attached sign to be posted at propane filling sites within direct view of the operator. With this visual reminder, we seek to gain greater awareness of this particular hazard. If you have any questions about this or other propane safety issues, feel free to contact TSSA toll-free at **1-877-682-8772** or online at www.tssa.org.

About TSSA

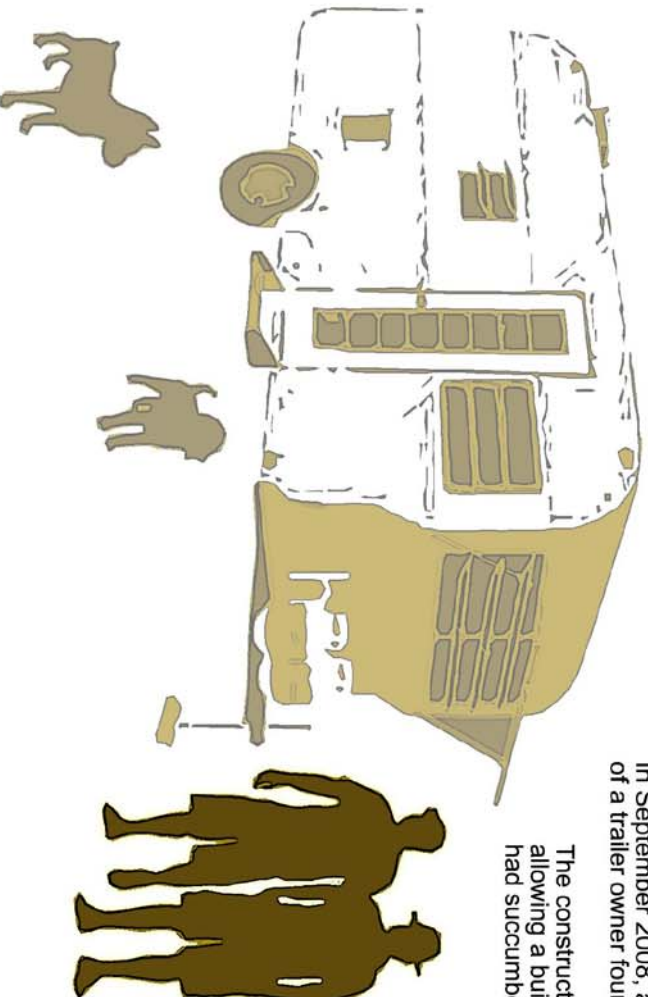
TSSA is an innovative, self-funded, non-government organization focused on delivering public safety services. It provides not-for-profit regulatory safety services in industry sectors such as fuels, amusement devices, elevating devices, boilers and pressure vessels, operating engineers, and upholstered and stuffed articles. The organization's vision is to be the world leader in public safety services.

Fuel Safety in the Park



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