



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

SEP 24 2002

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE
Recalls and Compliance Division
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IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

Overfill Prevention Devices Used In 20-lb. Propane Cylinders

Dear Fire Official:

The Office of Compliance of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is investigating allegations of broken Overfill Prevention Devices (OPD) used in 20-lb. propane cylinders. Specifically, we have received several complaints and allegations that parts of the OPDs have been found broken off and/or 'rattling around' in these propane cylinders. The staff is concerned that overfilling of propane cylinders could occur if a broken OPD is relied on when filling the cylinders, even though other methods of checking the propane levels are supposed to be used. Overfilled cylinders can present serious risks of fire or explosions to consumers.

We are seeking your assistance to obtain broken, damaged or failed OPDs from propane cylinders in the field. Please contact me directly if you encounter any cylinders with broken OPDs, so that I can make arrangements to obtain the product(s) for our technical staff's review. The staff would also appreciate your sharing the contents of this letter with fire officials in your area.

Please call me at (301) 504-0608, extension 1169, if you have any questions or discover any broken or failed OPDs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph S. Vogel".

Joseph S. Vogel
Compliance Officer
Recalls and Compliance Division