

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL AGENCY AND CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVES TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ADDRESS THE PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES DUE TO UNDER-ODORIZED AND UNODORIZED LIQUID PROPANE GAS PROGRAMS**

Offered by:  
National Association of State Fire Marshals  
International Association of Fire Chiefs

Whereas Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) is a colorless, odorless, and flammable gas, odorants (e.g. mercaptan) are normally added to the liquid (with the exception of LPG being shipped to industrial end-users) in order to enable human detection when the gas is released into the atmosphere;

Whereas the majority of LPG for non-industrial use is produced by bulk providers of the material. The presence of LPG in the consumer supply chain, with either diminished levels of odorant or no odorant present, represents a significant safety risk;

Whereas absent sufficient odorization of the commodity, the presence of LPG cannot be detected and poses a serious risk for ignition, explosion, or oxygen displacement;

Whereas investigations have revealed that LPG may originate from a rail shipment, and that large quantities of LPG—shipped via railroad tank car as odorized—have been delivered to commercial and retail end users with either a diminished level of odorization (Odor Fade) or no odorization at all;

Whereas diminished or absent levels of liquid propane odorant has been determined as a contributing factor in incidents that have resulted in numerous injuries and fatalities across the country.

Whereas the findings confirm that the potential presence of un/under-odorized liquid propane gas is of great concern to firefighter safety and the public in general.

Whereas the proper odorization of LPG is addressed by a combination of federal and state laws and regulations, as well as by accepted industry standards and practices. In accordance with the laws and regulations, LPG used by non-industrial entities (e.g., commercial and retail entities, and the general public) is generally required to be odorized (or “stenched”) to enable the detection of any unintended release or leak of the gas;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved that,** the Congressional Fire Services Institute:

- 1) Requests the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to continue to address the issue of un/under odorized propane, and implement regulations relative to testing of LPG product in interstate transportation to ensure the adequacy of odorant in the product. In addition, a comprehensive study should be commissioned regarding the phenomenon of odor fade, to include the effect of other products being used in tanks for delivery of LPG. Finally, PHMSA should investigate the possibility of differences in domestic versus imported mercaptan or other odorants used in LPG.
- 2) Requests that the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) review increased standards and determine initially if they could be implemented under the CPSC authority utilizing expedited rulemaking.
- 3) CFSI strongly encourages PHMSA, CPSC, Congress and other public safety and regulatory officers to address the severity of the problems that un/under odorization and odor-fade in liquid propane gas presents to the American public.
- 4) CFSI strongly encourages the propane gas industry, and the appropriate trade associations, to strengthen industry standards to address the safety risks and testing methods associated with odorization loss and fade.