

# Propane Storage, Wildfire Safety Tips Given By Railroad Commission

At this time of year, wildfires fanned by dry winds threaten propane storage tanks in many areas of Texas.

The Railroad Commission, the state agency in charge of propane safety, wants Texans whose homes or businesses are fueled by propane gas to know what to do in the event of one of these fast-moving fires.

"Wildfires have burned more than half a million acres in central and west Texas so far this year," said Railroad Commission Chair-

man Michael L. Williams. "If you have a propane tank, you need to be prepared to protect your family and property."

"That means knowing what to do before, during and after a wildfire event," said Commissioner Victor G. Carrillo.

"There are several simple, but important steps that need to be taken to be ready for wildfires."

"After a fire, if the service valve on your tank was closed, please contact your propane supplier before turning the tank back on," said Commissioner Elizabeth Jones.

"For safety's sake, suppliers are required by law to inspect and leak-test your propane system before restoring service after any interruption of service, including an emergency."

**Before a Wildfire**  
Make sure any small propane cylinders are stored outdoors, and check the area around your main propane fuel tank.

Clean and clear out vegetation or other items that can burn around the tank.

Mow close to the ground, and cut back all growth around tank supports.

Trim overhanging trees or shrubs.

Your propane supplier can help by showing you where your service line is buried and how to operate your propane system's safety features.

Have your supplier show you and your family how to turn off the gas at the tank.

Your propane supplier can also put a reflective Railroad Commission tank locator decal on or next to your electric meter or service box.

The bright orange decal helps emergency responders find your tank, even if it's underground or dark outside.

Finally, post emergency phone numbers in an agreed location, and make sure all family members know your community's warning signals and how to tune into your area's Emergency Broadcast Network.

**During a Wildfire**  
If it is safe to do so, disconnect small propane cylinders from grills or other appliances and move them away from any structures.

Shut the cylinders' service valves by turning them all the way clockwise.

In the event of an evacuation, follow emergency workers' instructions.

**After a Wildfire**  
Propane storage containers exposed to fire need to be inspected and, if necessary, tested and repaired after an emergency.

Contact a licensed propane supplier to inspect the container

and system and ensure it is safe for use.

Always use caution when re-entering buildings following an evacuation.

If you smell gas, do not operate electrical switches, appliances or telephones.

These actions could ignite propane vapor.

Exit the building quickly and

carefully. Go to a neighbor's phone or use a cell phone outside to call emergency personnel or your propane supplier for help.

For more tips to safeguard your propane-fueled home, visit propane.tx.gov or call the Railroad Commission's Alternative Fuels Division at (800) 64-CLEAR.

## City Council

Continued from front page the city.

All told, the bill could run as high as \$200,000, depending on how many holes there are. The engineer said that he hoped this number was a "worst-case" scenario.

Another option would be to insert a smaller well casing inside the existing one and use it. This would cost about \$50,000, but would reduce the well's pumping capacity by about 25 percent.

Council agreed that they would need to see the results of the video after scraping to get a better idea of how to proceed.

In other action:

-Council took no action on a measure that would have established permits for heating and air conditioning work in the city. Council was worried that there could be problems with the way the ordinance was written and agreed that the matter needed to be looked into further before taking action.

-Council approved the city's contract with the Colorado County Central Appraisal District for the coming year.

-Council approved Ken Craig as election judge for the May 10 election.

-Council was informed that the city received grant funds from LCRA to help construct a bathroom at E.H. Henry Park.

## Good Friday Closings Listed

The following businesses will be closed on March 21 in observance of Good Friday.

The Colorado County Courthouse, City of Eagle Lake office and Wintermann Library. Wallis State Bank will close at 4 p.m.

The First National Bank lobby will be open until noon but the drive thru will remain open until 6 p.m.

The City of Eagle Lake Offices will close Friday, March 21 for Good Friday. There will be no trash collection on Friday. Thursday's route and Friday's routes will be collected on Thursday.

The Headlight will be open.

## Sales Tax Payments

Continued from front page tax payments of \$26.8 million, up 10.5 percent compared to one year ago.

Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 7.2 percent higher than last year.

The 126 special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$14.2 million in sales tax revenue, up 20.1 percent compared to last March.

Ten local transit systems received \$101.7 million, up 10.6 percent.

For details of March sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site. The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, April 11.

For March in Colorado County, the payments totaled \$63,100, an increase of 9.07 percent.

For the year, payments totaled, \$222,320, a decrease of 1.07 percent.

In March in Fayette County, payments totaled \$80,917, an increase of 10.3 percent.

For the year in Fayette County, the payments totaled \$286,278, an increase of 3.24 percent.

Checks sent to area cities for March with changes from last year are as follows:

--Columbus - \$75,938, up 1.51 percent; for the year, \$269,003, up 0.91 percent;

--Weimar - \$26,537, up 38.55

percent; for the year, \$79,682, up 12.19 percent;

--Schulenburg - \$36,595, down 5.48 percent; for the year, \$137,710, up 4.80 percent;

--La Grange - \$109,549, up 19.61 percent; for the year, \$369,908, up 14.68 percent;

--Flatonia - \$12,359, down 9.60 percent; for the year, \$43,360, down 4.46 percent; and

--Hallettsville - \$62,188, up 5.44 percent; for the year, \$234,414, up 5.56 percent.

## Easter

Continued from front page welcome.

The 45<sup>th</sup> annual combined Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by Wrights Grove Baptist Church, Rev. T.J. Cunningham, Pastor and Providence Baptist Church Rev. Coby Shorter, Jr., Pastor will be held at Providence Baptist Church, Sunday, March 23. Service will begin at 5:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. Robert Anderson, El Campo. The public is invited.

The Parish of the Nativity will be having Holy Thursday The Lord's Supper and Mass at 7 p.m. Good Friday Lord's Passion at 3 p.m. The office will be closed at noon. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and Mass at 8 p.m. Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord.

The First Baptist Church and the Living Hope Church will be having regular Sunday services for Easter.

"When you compare... it's not fair"



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Engine HP	55	45	54	52
Engine Displacement	179 cu.in.	179 cu.in.	186 cu.in.	148.5 cu.in.
Transmission	12 forward/ 12 reverse	9 forward/ 3 reverse	8 forward / 2 reverse	8 forward / 4 reverse
Standard Synchronizd Shuttle	Yes	No	No	No
Tractor Weight	5,152 lbs	4634 lbs	4966 lbs	3285 lbs
3 Pt. High Capacity	4,010 lbs	3591 lbs	3968 lbs	2315 lbs
Wheel base	86 in	80.7 in	83 in	71.6 in
Operator Station	full iso platform	straddle	semi-flat	straddle
Standard Rear Tires	14.9x28	13.6x28	14.9x28	14.9x26
Standard Hydraulic Remote	Yes	No	No	No
Additional Remotes	3 optional	2 optional	2 optional	3 optional
Hydraulic Output	21.7 GPM	18.2 GPM	11 GPM	14 GPM
Quick Attach Loader	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Loader Lift Height	125"	112"	125"	108"
Bucket Dump Angle	67°	43°	27°	45°
Bucket Rollback Angle	41°	30°	31°	35°
Loader Lift Capacity <sup>2</sup>	2100 lbs	1500 lbs	1700 lbs	1815 lbs
<b>RESALE VALUE<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$12,896</b>	<b>\$9,835</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>\$9,527</b>

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## NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page auction. You may also bring your own refreshments. Please RSVP by March 22 with the registration fee to Elmer Michna, 3700 County Rd. , Moulton, TX 77975 or call 361-596-7446. For more information call Al Stryl at 281-485-4095; Henry Joe Jasek at 2361-798-2756 or Elmer Michna at 361-596-7446.

### Head Start accepting applications

Head Start is accepting eligibility applications for the 2008-09 school year. If you have a child that will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1 and you would like to enroll them in an Early Childhood Development Program that is FREE to parents: You Should call 512-303-7737 or toll free at 1-800-433-7570 for an application or visit our web site at cfhs.org. Apply now, don't wait slots fill up fast. Openings available in Giddings, La Grange, Smithville, Elgin, Eagle Lake, Columbus, Stoney Point and in collaboration with BISSD at Bluebonnet, Cedar Creek, Lost Pines, Mina and Red Rock. Head Start esta aceptando las aplicaciones de elegibilidad para el ano escolar de 2008-2009. Si usted tiene un nino que sera 3 o 4 anos de edad el 1 de septiembre de 2008 y le gustaria matricularlo en un programa del Desarrollo Temprano de Ninez que es GRATIS a los padres: Usted debe llamar al 512-303-7737 o al 1-800-433-7570 para una aplicacion o visite nuestro sitio del web al cfhs.org. Aplique ahora, no espere. los lugares se llenan rapido. Las apertures son disponibles en Giddings, La Grange, Elgin, Smithville, Eagle Lake, Columbus, Stoney Point y en la colaboracion con el Distrito Escolar de Bastrop en Bluebonnet, Cedar Creek, Lost Pines, Mina y Red Rock.