



For Immediate Release

January 6, 2010

Propane Delivery Restrictions Lifted during State of Emergency

Jackson – Persons using propane gas to heat their homes should have less concern in the coming days about the ability to get service in the face of bitterly cold weather. The Federal Motor Carrier Administration regulation, which limits the number of hours propane delivery truck drivers can be on the road and service customers, was suspended in Mississippi this afternoon with Governor Haley Barbour's State of Emergency declaration.

Normally, drivers are restricted to driving 10 hours and working 12 hours, with the ability of servicing approximately 25 consumers per truck during that time. With the suspension of the restrictions, more consumers can receive the vital heating fuel needed to keep their homes and families safe and warm. The propane gas industry in Mississippi is regulated by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

"Our thanks and appreciation goes to Governor Barbour and his staff for addressing the potentially life-threatening issue of propane availability in the declaration. We will continue to monitor the situation and take any additional needed steps to protect our citizens from the forecasted extreme weather conditions," Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

The Fire Marshal's Office asks propane dealers to give the most vulnerable citizens first priority in receiving propane. These would include the elderly, invalids, and anyone with less than 25% of gas in their tanks.

This week, there have been 3 reported weather related deaths. At least one of those victims was found with an empty propane tank connected to his home.

Chaney urged anyone who uses propane as a heating source to check their tank and contact their dealer if they need additional fuel. He also reminds Mississippians to take extra precautions with their heating fire safety and be wary of using alternative heating sources.

For questions or complaints regarding propane gas service contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 601-359-1061. Additional heating fire safety tips can be found on a special "Holiday and Heating Fire Safety" page on the Mississippi Insurance Department website at www.mid.state.ms.us. (Look for the link in the notifications tab.)

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