

## **Propane Toolkit**

### **Index**

<b>I.</b>	<b>Regional and Federal Outreach .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Communications .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
	a. Hotlines .....	Page 2
	b. Propane Websites .....	Page 2
<b>III.</b>	<b>Financial Assistance .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
	a. LIHEAP .....	Page 2
	b. Non-LIHEAP .....	Page 4
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Transportation .....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
	a. Hours of Service .....	Page 4
	b. Weight Limits .....	Page 5
	c. Other .....	Page 6
<b>V.</b>	<b>Supply and Price .....</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
	a. Agriculture .....	Page 7
	b. Early Fill .....	Page 7
	c. Prices and Fraud .....	Page 7
	d. Supply Chain .....	Page 7
<b>VI.</b>	<b>State Propane Associations.....</b>	<b>Page 8</b>

## I. Regional and Federal Outreach

- [MGA Governors' letter to President Obama](#)
  - [Indiana Press Release](#)
  - [Minnesota Press Release](#)
- On January 30, 2014, MGA call of Midwestern Governors with Texas Governor Perry to discuss ongoing propane challenges and discuss possible additional actions.
  - [Gov. Branstad Press Release](#)
  - [Branstad, Reynolds applaud Texas officials, US DOT for assisting Midwest during propane shortage](#)
- [Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds letter to President Obama](#)
- [Minnesota Lawmakers, Governor Dayton petition President Obama for Immediate Action to Address Critical Propane Shortage](#)
- [Gov. Dayton's letter to Congressional leadership regarding LIHEAP funding](#)

## II. Communications

### A. Hotlines

#### *Minnesota*

- Minnesota [established a toll-free hotline](#) that Minnesotans affected by the propane shortage can use to ask questions or seek assistance in this time of emergency.
  - [Press Release](#)

#### *Wisconsin*

- The Division of Energy Services has established a public hotline for Wisconsin residents with propane issues or questions. <http://ready.wi.gov/propane/docs/PropaneFactsSheet.pdf>

### B. Propane Webpages

- [Iowa](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Wisconsin](#)

## III. Financial Assistance

### A. LIHEAP

#### *Illinois*

- The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will offer an increase of \$1,000 to each Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) eligible household for the purchase of propane to ensure uninterrupted delivery during this emergency. Over the next several days, DCEO will automatically credit the \$1,000 increased benefit to the accounts of existing LIHEAP customers. [Press Release](#)
  - The increased benefit will also be available to all new eligible applicants that sign up for LIHEAP.
  - DCEO will temporarily waive the \$75 Good Faith Effort fee for LIHEAP applicants using propane to heat their homes. This is a fee used during ordinary circumstances to ensure applicants are not abusing the system, but during times of economic hardship and rising prices can be an obstacle to participation in the program.

### ***Indiana***

- The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) released an additional \$5 million in funds to local service providers who cover all 92 counties. In addition, the state increased the LIHEAP crisis benefit from \$400 to \$550 through March 31, 2014. [Press Release](#)

### ***Iowa***

- On January 27, 2014, Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds wrote President Obama requesting the federal government to provide flexibilities in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). <https://governor.iowa.gov/propane/>

### ***Kansas***

- Gov. Brownback directed the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide priority status to applications for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) for those clients who use propane as a primary heating source. DCF will increase staffing to process applications and reach out to propane providers to continue to provide a propane delivery to LIEAP recipients, even if a client's account is delinquent. [Press Release](#)
  - Directed DCF to reach out to low-income families using propane as a primary heating source and make them aware of available resources, including the LIEAP program.

### ***Michigan***

- [The Michigan Energy Assistance Program](#), administered by the Michigan Department of Human Services, offers assistance to low-income utility customers, including propane customers. Residents in need of heating assistance with deliverable fuels are asked to call 2-1-1 or visit [Michigan.gov/heatingassistance](http://Michigan.gov/heatingassistance) for help.
- In addition to \$7 million already devoted to deliverable fuel heating assistance from the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), the Department of Human Services is working with the legislature to dedicate another \$7 million in Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) dollars to meet the heavy demand and need for these deliverable fuels this winter. [Press Release](#)

### ***Minnesota***

- The Minnesota Department of Commerce recently announced that LIHEAP crisis payments would increase from \$500 to \$1,000 for applicants who heat their homes with propane and heating oil. [Press Release](#)
  - A day after [expanding eligibility for the state's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) – an executive action that will help tens of thousands more Minnesota households affected by the ongoing propane emergency – Governor Mark Dayton today asked President Obama and members of Congress for additional federal funding to help Minnesotans in this time of crisis. [Press Release](#)
  - Governor Mark Dayton this morning signed legislation providing additional state funding to keep Minnesotans safe and warm during this winter's propane emergency. The first bill signed into law by Governor Dayton this session (HF2374/SF1961) adds \$20 million to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), giving approximately 180,000 Minnesotans the financial help they need to pay their heating bills this winter. [Press Release](#)

### *Missouri*

- The Gov. Nixon announced an additional \$14.9 million in federal funds through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In addition, Gov. Nixon's administration has doubled the amount each household can receive for propane assistance from \$264-\$450 per year to \$528-\$900 per year. [Press Release](#)

### *Wisconsin*

- [Governor Walker's letter to President Obama and Secretary Sebelius](#) Governor Walker wrote a letter asking for the early release of LIHEAP to help allow for early fill this year.
- [Gov. Walker's letter to President Obama about LIHEAP](#) Governor Walker wrote a letter to President Barack Obama asking for the immediate release of the remaining Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) allocations.

## **B. Non-LIHEAP**

### *Michigan*

- The Michigan Economic Development Corporation will institute a loan program to assist propane dealers and distributors who are struggling to deal with a combination of high propane demand and restricted supply. Details on the program include:
  - Propane dealers and distributors located in Michigan will be able to work with lending institutions on new lines of credit or expansion of existing lines.
  - Banks can obtain cash collateral for up to 49 percent of an increase or of a new line, provided the line is used and restricted to the purchase of propane for distribution in Michigan.
  - Banks will be responsible for normal reporting under the program and will be responsible for managing loans, including any collection activity on loans.
  - A \$5 million preference for dealers and distributors will be given through May, and the credit worthiness of individual applications will still be evaluated.

### *Wisconsin*

- Governor Scott Walker announced an additional \$500,000 has been released from the Department of Administration's Division of Energy Services to the Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund (KWWF).
  - Total of \$2 million from the state [Press release](#)
  - [Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund webpage](#).
- The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) is making it easier for small businesses to obtain fuel. WHEDA is expanding its \$3 million Propane Guarantee Program created last week specifically for propane dealers following Governor Walker's declaration of a State of Emergency. Under the expansion, existing small businesses would also be allowed to apply to purchase propane or propane equipment. [Press Release](#) [Press Release](#)
- [SBA Loans available for small business affected by propane crisis in Wisconsin](#)

## **IV. Transportation**

### **A. Hours of Service**

#### *Illinois*

- Governor Quinn has issued a disaster proclamation to allow Illinois licensed truckers to travel through other states to obtain these fuels and deliver them to Illinois without applying for

additional licenses. The declaration also allows drivers to remain behind the wheel longer in order to retrieve heating fuel from other states and bring it back to Illinois. These actions increase the number of drivers available to bring propane into Illinois from other states. <http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/PressReleasesListShow.cfm?RecNum=11891>

### ***Indiana***

- [Waiving statues that limit the hours of service for propane transporters in Indiana](#)
  - [Extended twice](#)

### ***Iowa***

- On January 27, 2014, Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds wrote President Obama requesting the federal government to provide flexibilities to ease state transport regulations [Press Release](#)
- Gov. Branstad issued an emergency declaration to ease propane transport within the State of Iowa on October 25, 2013; the declaration has been and will be extended further as needed. [Press Release](#)
- Governor Branstad has personally called Secretary Moniz from the U.S. Department of Energy and Secretary Foxx from the U.S. Department of Transportation to ease propane hours of service and interstate weight transport regulations until prices and supply have stabilized. <https://governor.iowa.gov/propane/>

### ***Michigan***

- [Michigan 2014-1](#) - The executive order suspends state and federal regulations relating to hours-of-service for motor carriers and drivers transporting heating oil and propane within Michigan, enabling these individuals to exceed the number of hours and consecutive days in which they can operate a commercial motor vehicle.

### ***Minnesota***

- [Governor Mark Dayton Issues Emergency Executive Order 14-04](#) Extends Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota.
- [Governor Mark Dayton Issues Emergency Executive Order 14-05](#) Amends EO 14-04 to Include Transport of Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Ethanol, and Biodiesel

### ***Ohio***

- Governor Kasich's declaration allows shippers with valid commercial driver licenses who are transporting propane or heating oil to drive more hours and more consecutive days than they normally would as long as they can still do so safely [Press Release](#)
- [Ohio Proclamation](#) – Amending state of energy emergency waiver of regulations, to extend relief relating to motor carriers and drivers transporting propane and heating oil.

### ***Wisconsin***

- Governor Walker has issued multiple Executive Orders since October 25, 2013, allowing propane transport drivers to log additional hours to transport more propane. [Press Release](#)

## **B. Weight Limits**

### ***Illinois***

- The Illinois Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measures Bureau will not perform meter inspections on propane trucks during the ongoing emergency. This will allow these

vehicles to more quickly deliver this vital heating fuel to those who need it. The inspections will resume when the emergency is over. [Press Release](#)

#### ***Indiana***

- [Indiana 14-02](#) - Suspending limitations on divisible loads for propane carriers. In addition, he instructed the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Department of Revenue (DOR) to expedite permit applications and waive any fees for overweight and oversize loads for propane suppliers.

#### ***Kansas***

- Gov. Brownback issued two Executive Orders granting temporary relief from motor carrier rules and regulations to ensure the continued delivery of propane to individuals and businesses across the state. The Executive Orders provided relief from Jan. 9 through Feb. 14, 2014. [Press Release](#)
  - Executive Order 14-02 applies only to those motor carriers delivering propane directly participating in relief efforts. In accordance with Title 49 C.F.R. § 390.23: [Press Release](#)
    - Temporarily suspends the requirements contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, Title 49 C.F.R. Parts 390-399;
    - Temporarily suspends registration and fuel tax permits required by the Kansas Department of Revenue;
    - Temporarily suspends the licensing, certification and permitting rules and regulations required by the Kansas Corporation Commission;
    - Temporarily waives permit fees for over dimension and overweight loads as required by the Kansas Department of Transportation

#### ***Wisconsin***

- On January 3, 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Department of Administration authorized a weight limit relief order for vehicles transporting energy in the state in order to increase the amount of propane carried in a single trip. [Press Release](#)
- [Wisconsin #132](#) - Relating to the Declaration of an Energy Emergency

### **C. Other**

#### ***Indiana***

- In order to keep more propane available for residential customers, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) trucks will use diesel fuel instead of propane through March 1, 2014. [Press Release](#)

#### ***Minnesota***

- Persuading the federal government and the State of Texas to waive shipping restrictions and increase the transport of propane supplies into Minnesota. [Call with Gov. Perry regarding waived trucking restrictions in Texas.](#)

#### ***Ohio***

- Governor Kasich issued a statewide energy emergency declaration in order to expedite shipments of propane gas and help ease tight propane gas supplies [Press Release](#)

#### ***Wisconsin***

- Wisconsin agencies extend authorization to transport fuel. [Press Release](#)

## V. Supply and Price

### A. Prices and Fraud

#### *Illinois*

- Illinois Attorney General Madigan encourages consumers with complaints regarding propane to call her Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-243-0618 or email the Consumer Fraud Bureau at [AG\\_Consumer@atg.state.il.us](mailto:AG_Consumer@atg.state.il.us). [Press Release](#)

#### *Michigan*

- Attorney General Bill Schuette encouraged customers who are concerned about possible price gouging to contact the Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-765-8388 or file an online complaint at [www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag).

#### *Minnesota*

- Governor Dayton has instructed the Commissioner of Commerce to use his consumer protection authority to help guard Minnesotans from potential price gouging activities. [Press Release](#)
- Governor Dayton's second propane summit aims to assess supply, mitigate shortages and price hikes. [Press Release](#)

#### *Missouri*

- [Missouri Attorney General releases report on winter propane price spikes](#)

### B. Agriculture

#### *Indiana*

- Indiana Agriculture groups and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) have reached out to the commercial grain industry, asking for a recheck on stocks that might be available for resale. [Press Release](#)

#### *Iowa*

- [Iowa Dept. of Agriculture Secretary letter to Iowa Ag Leaders](#)

### C. Early Fill

#### *Michigan*

- [Michigan Press Release](#)
- [Michigan propane users urged to lock in Low Prices](#)

#### *Wisconsin*

- Governor Walker announces plan to help fill propane tanks early. [Press Release](#)

### D. Supply Chain

#### *Iowa*

- [Iowa DOT Propane Supply Chain Optimization Strategy: Steering Committee Project Status Update](#)

## **VI. State Propane Associations**

- [Illinois Propane Gas Association](#)
- [Indiana Propane Gas Association](#)
- [Iowa Propane Gas Association](#)
- [Propane Marketers Association of Kansas](#)
- [Michigan Propane Gas Association](#)
- [Minnesota Propane Association](#)
- [Missouri Propane Gas Association](#)
- [Ohio Propane Gas Association](#)
- [Wisconsin Propane Gas Association](#)