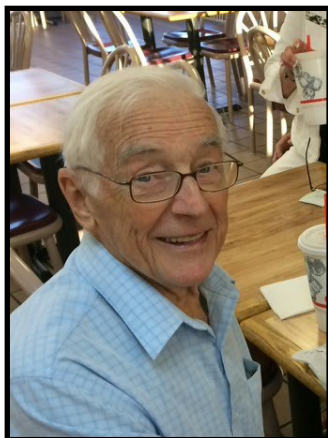


INSIDE FIRE



Bill Mahre

A Toast to Safety Leaders, by Jay Johnston, LP Gas Magazine

The following article is a reprint from the December edition of LP Gas Magazine by columnist Jay Johnston. The article sums up Bill's contribution to not only the gas community, but the fire investigation industry. Thank you Mr. Johnston for sharing your thoughts.

Like the rising and setting sun, we all have people in our lives on whom we can count.

They lead by example and shed light on how to do what is right. That is how I feel about Bill Mahre of Propane Technical Services. He is a true gentleman who has been an industry journeyman, educator, mentor, safety leader and friend—not just to me, but also to the entire propane industry.

I feel it's appropriate to recognize Bill, as he appreciates his sunsets and reflects on a career of honor and peer respect.

Bill recently resigned from National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) activities, including his service as an NPGA liaison and member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 58 committee. He has chosen to focus on work from his home office, current cases and spend more time with family. As a from-the-ground-up propane employee who started out filling bottles, Bill has worked in every position a propane company could offer, up to and including, safety director, manager and vice president.

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Whitemore Fire Consultants, Inc.
952-461-7000 (Office)
952-461-7100 (fax)

www.whitemorefire.com

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A Toast to Safety Leaders (Continued from Page 1)

Bill's later work as an engineer, investigator and expert witness stands as a legacy to preventing bad-faith liability claims and unethical expert testimony from darkening the doorstep of many propane companies. Due to his background and commitment to honest testimony, hundreds of unjust accusations and baseless allegations have been properly rebuked, rejected and accurately exposed as liberal attempts at legal extortion.

When it comes to doing what is right, the buck stops with Bill Mahre.

Because he has performed every job and trained every position, Bill has the credibility of his convictions that hardworking men and women of the propane industry should not be penalized for doing their jobs correctly. To this end, the propane industry has benefited greatly from this man, who has stood for the hardworking employees in the field while defending their efforts, actions and training.

His long-standing service to NPGA includes serving on and chairing the NPGA Safety Committee. He was also a long-time

member of the NPGA Technology, Standards and Safety Committee and NPGA liaison member of the NFPA 58 Committee. In those roles, he tirelessly shared his knowledge, expertise and experience.

One example of Bill's well-rounded expertise is his affiliation with the International Association of Arson Investigators. Bill's experience and his instinctive understanding of fire origin and cause separate him from the crowd in terms of expertise, if not longevity.

In our fast-paced business world, there are times when many measure individual worth on economic accomplishments, In Bill's case, accidents prevented and liability limits protected certainly have accomplished those ends.

However, the characteristics that make each of us unique and able to contribute in the business world are ground in our day-to day family and personal lives. Sometimes in business we forget the importance of family and commitment in the wake of fast-paced commerce. To that end, it is refreshing and inspiration that such qualities have been the foundation of a man who can finally see the

sunset of his career.

Bill's personal life sheds great light on his business success. Bill and Jeri Mahre were married in 1956. Their dedication to each other and family has been inspirational as they raised four children. They also have nine grandchildren, one great grandchild, with more on the way. When the Mahre clan recently celebrated the merits of a life well lived, as Bill turned 80, they gave him a jacket that read "29 years old plus 51 years of experience!"

When I think of all the industry members Bill has educated, protected and served, whether or not they appreciated his focus, I smile at the thought that we all are stakeholders in making sure safety is a present acumen in our business pursuits. His example reminds us that it's possible to not only make money but also make a difference in the process.

So please raise your cup with me in recognition of Bill Mahre, his contributions to our industry and his example as a man who has dared to care about doing the right thing—a toast to sunsets and safety leaders.

October Newsletter Comments

In our October edition of Inside Fire, we celebrated our 20th anniversary as Whitemore Fire Consultants and took a little stroll down memory lane. A company's success is completely dependent upon those that it serves. Not only the work that we perform as investigators, but also the customer service and follow-up. It was heartwarming and so very much appreciated to hear from so many offering your congratulations on our milestone. Below are a few comments that we received.

"Just finished reading your latest edition of Inside Fire. Thank you for the services your provide, thank you for the education you provide while working with myself and my firefighters when on scene, thank you for your professionalism when working with our residents, businesses and guests in our community, and thank you for treating all of us as a friend." - Joel McColl, City of Savage Fire Chief

"I believe this is the best edition yet, Pam! My heartiest congratulations to you and Bob! "

- Ronald Rahman, Minnesota Deputy State Fire Marshal

"I wanted to let you know that I enjoyed the trip down memory lane article that Bob authored. Congratulations on your accomplishments on both the business and family side. Great job with the article. - David W. Hess, CPCU, General Adjuster, FM Global

Thanks!

News About Us— A Message From Robert Whitemore



In Remembrance . . .

Last month all of us within the fire/explosion investigation community lost a dear friend, colleague and mentor. Bill Mahre of Propane Technical Services, Inc. was my friend . . . and so much more. I first met Bill shortly after we both started our respective businesses', over 20 years ago. Our first case involved an explosion near Olivia, Minnesota where a husband and wife were killed in the explosion. I was retained by the insurance company for the homeowner's insurance, Bill was working on behalf of the propane company that provided LP gas to the residence. From the moment we met, I knew it would be a special relationship. Bill always had a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye and he knew more about LP gas/natural gas than most of us will ever know in a lifetime.

Over the years, Bill and I traveled to countless cases throughout this country. We spent more than our share of "windshield" time discussing everything from propane to politics. Depending on the year and current events would dictate which topic would end up being more "explosive"! Regardless of who he represented on any given case, Bill would be quick to share his knowledge and expertise with anyone who would listen. He was literally a "walking encyclopedia" who would enlighten and enrich us all by his mere presence at a scene.

As we gathered to mourn his passing, the family was struck by the outpouring of support from throughout the fire investigation community. Fire marshal's, investigators, fire departments, engineers, attorneys and countless others gathered to say one last goodbye to a man who had given us all so much. His wake and funeral would have been a gathering Bill would have enjoyed . . . I'm sure he wouldn't have understood what all the fuss was about, but regardless, scores of people came to acknowledge a life well lived.

At Bill's funeral I was honored to give the eulogy focusing on his professional career, including the last 20+ years of Propane Technical Services. Bill served on numerous NFPA committees, including NFPA 58—LP Gas Code, Gopher State One Call Board of Directors, and the IAAI "Learn to Burn" projects. I told stories, some of which his family never heard about Bill. We laughed . . . and cried . . . but in the end we all left better for having known Bill and all that he gave us.

Bill Mahre was so much more than my friend . . . and now its beginning to sink in how much he contributed to our industry and how he brought about the change that we apply every time we encounter a gas incident. We all will miss that opportunity to pick up the phone to garner just a little bit more of his knowledge, wit and wisdom. Our friendship was built on respect and integrity. I will miss him every day for the rest of my professional life, but I will not forget the education and expertise he passed down to not only me, but many of those in the fire industry. We are Bill's legacy, and for that, I thank him.

Bob Whitemore



Mike LaPointe Retires from Acuity Insurance

Many of us had the opportunity to celebrate and recognize Mike LaPointe, SIU Manager of Acuity Insurance as he retires. Mike ended his tenure with Acuity Insurance in early January and begins a well deserved retirement.

Mike along with the entire Acuity SIU team has been a valued client of Whitemore Fire Consultants, Inc., and we were honored to be a part of his special day. The celebration was attended by close friends, colleagues and clients.

Congratulations Mike and Cheri . . . As you begin this next phase of your life, traveling and enjoying your grandchildren.

(l-r) Brian Haag, CFI, Doug Noah, CFI, Mike LaPointe, Brian Whitemore, CFI and Robert Whitemore, CFI.



Back to the Basics

Annual Educational Seminar

Friday, May 1st

**Legend's Golf Course
Prior Lake, MN**

**RSVP - 952-461-7000
Or online
www.whitemorefire.com**

CLE's to be Applied For



**Register by
April 24, 2015**

Seminar Speakers & Itinerary

- 7:30—8:30** **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30** **Welcome & Opening Remarks, Robert B. Whitemore, CFI**
- 8:45—9:45** **Assembling Your Team—Managing Today's Fire Investigation, by Steve Pfefferle, Attorney at Law Terhaar, Archibald, Pfefferle & Griebel**
- 9:45—10:00** **Break**
- 10:00—10:45** **Interfacing with State & Local Officials, Jim Immataeo, Deputy State Fire Marshal**
- 10:45—11:45** **Conducting the Origin & Cause Investigation, Brian Haag, CFI, Doug Noah, CFI, Brian Whitemore, CFI Whitemore Fire Consultants, Inc.**
- 11:45—12:30** **Lunch**
- 12:30—4:00** **The Roles of Engineering Experts**
 - 12:20—1:15—Matt Dubbin, P.E., MSD Engineering (Electrical)**
 - 1:15—2:30—Duane Wolf, P.E., Wolf Engineering (Mechanical)**
 - 2:30—3:15—Larry Hanke, PE, MEE Engineering (Metallurgical)**
 - 3:15—4:00—Dr. Robert Schroeder, FPE, Schroeder Fire (Fire Spread/Fire Protection)**
- 4:00—5:00** **Today's Hot Topics in Fire Investigation (Panel Discussion)**
Tim Poeschl, Attorney at Law (Hanson, Lulic & Krall); Jim Onken, SIU (State Farm Insurance)
Robert Whitemore, CFI (Whitemore Fire Consultants, Inc.); Bradley Ayers, Attorney at Law (Morrison-Sund); Jim Immataeo, CFI (Deputy State Fire Marshal)
- 5:00—???** **Social Time**

RECALLS

Mirka Extends Recall of Compact Electric Orbital Sanders



The Consumer Product Safety Commission in cooperation with Mirka Abrasives, Inc. of Twinsburg, Ohio has voluntarily issued an extension of a previously released recall for the Mirka Electric Orbital Sanders. The sander can short circuit, posing a fire hazard.

Approximately 574 units were sold in the U.S. and 21 in Canada (440 in U.S. and 85 in Canada were recalled

in June 2014).

This recall involves 5-inch and 6-inch Mirka CEROS compact electric random orbital sanders. The sanders are yellow and black with Mirka logo on the front. A speed control lever is on the top of the sanders and a vacuum hose connector on the rear. The recalled sanders came with either a cardboard box or a plastic carrying case, a 12-foot power cord, a wrench, a multi-hole backup pad and assorted abrasives. Some also came with a DC transformer. The 5-inch sander is model CEROS550. The 6-inch sander is model CEROS650. Model information is on a white sticker on the back of the sander housing beneath the hand grip. Serial numbers are engraved on the side of the sander housing just above the dust shroud. For a complete list of serial numbers included in this recall, please visit www.cpsc.gov, and click on "recalls."

Mirka Abrasives has received five reports of electrical shorting incidents, which included the sanders sparking and smoking. No injuries or property damage has been reported.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled sanders, unplug them and contact Mirka Abrasives for a free placement.

The sanders were sold at various distributors and independent retailers nationwide and at Amazon.com; Beavertools.com and other online retailers from March 2014 through November 2014 for about \$500.

The Adventures of Lewey



I love snow Not only do I like to roll in snow, I like to eat snow, I like to bring snow into the office. Did I say I love snow? Yep, the adventures of a 8-month of Golden.

Lewey shows us each and everyday what the "teenage" years of a dog are. From anxiously greeting our visitors (sorry about jumping up on the door, I just need to see who's here so I can alert Amy.), to running after a tail that he never seems to catch. Lewey is keeping all of us on our toes.

But, he is learning his manners . . . He understands "stay", and especially "no" (not that he really appreciates it).

So stop in Come meet Lewey (no dog biscuits please, he's watching his girlish figure). He would love to be the Welcome Wagon to Whitmore Fire Consultants.

RECALLS

Lifesmart Recalls Lifepro Brand Portable Mini Space Heaters



The Consumer Product Safety Commission in cooperation with Source Network Sales and Marketing, LLC d/b/a Lifesmart, of Plano, Texas has voluntarily issued a recall of the Lifepro portable space heaters. The screws used to attach the back plate to the heater are too short and allow the back plate to detach when removing the heater from the outlet, posing an electrical shock hazard to the user.

Approximately 17,000 units were sold nationwide at Meijer stores, Northern Tool stores, QCI Direct stores and Tuesday Morning stores and online at Amazon.com; BJs.com; HomeDepot.com; QCIDirect.com; Samsclub.com; Walmart.com; and Way-fair.com from January 2014 through December 2014 for between \$40 and \$50.

No injuries have been reported.

This recall is for Lifepro brand portable infrared quartz space heater models LS-IQH-DMICRO and LS-IQH-MICRO. The recalled heaters are about 6 1/2 inches tall x 5 inches wide x 3 3/4 inches deep and made of black plastic. They have a three-prong plug built into the back to allow them to be plugged directly into an electrical outlet. The Lifepro logo is molded into the front bottom of the heaters. Model LS-IQH-DMICRO is a 400-watt heater with digital display on the top. Model LS-IQH-MICRO is a 450-watt heater with no display. The model name and wattage are printed on a label on the back of each heater below the plug.

Consumers should immediately unplug and stop using the recalled space heaters and contact Lifesmart to receive either a free repair kit consisting of four longer screws with instructions on how to install them; a free replacement heater with the modified screws, or a full refund.

For more information, please visit www.lifesmartproducts.com and click on 2014-Product-Recalls.

Children's Pajamas & Robes Recalled by Lazy One

RECALLS



The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in cooperation with Lazy One, Inc. of North Logan, Utah has voluntarily issued a recall of their children's pajamas and robes due to the violation of Federal Flammability Standard. The footed pajamas and robes fail to meet the federal flammability standard for children's sleepwear, posing a burn hazard to children.

The pajamas and robes were sold at department stores and boutiques nationwide and online at www.lazyone.com from October 2013 through June 2014 for about \$22 for the pajamas and \$15 for the robes. No injuries have been reported.



This recall involves 100% polyester Lazy One children's sleepwear garments, including footed pajamas and two robes. The one-piece "footeez" style footed zip-up pajama is beige with a red, pink, blue and yellow owl print with the wording "I'm OWL yours." It has blue trim at the neck, cuff and right-hand side single pocket. The pajama has a foot-to-neck zipper, non-slip soles and a rear opening on the behind. It was sold in sizes children's small through extra-large. One of the recalled robes is pink with moose graphics and "Don't Moose With Me" printed on it. It has solid green trim, two front pockets and belt. The second robe is red with printed moose graphics and solid black trim, two front pockets and belt. Both robes were sold in sizes 4T through 14. "Lazy One", the size and "Made in China" are printed on the garments' neck label. Garments with "Flame Resistant" printed on the neck label are not included in this recall.

Consumers should immediately take the recalled pajamas and robes away from children and return them to Lazy One for a free replacement garment, including shipping.

For more information, please visit www.lazyone.com and click on the Product Recall link on the bottom of the page.

RECALLS

Sunbeam Recalls Holmes Oil Filled Heaters



The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in cooperation with Sunbeam Products, Inc. of Boca Raton, Florida has voluntarily issued a recall of the oil-filled heaters. The oil-filled heaters can spray heated oil, posing a scald/burn hazard.

Approximately 34,000 units were sold in the United States at Target and small department stores nationwide from August 2014 through November 2014 for about \$50. The firm has received approximately 40 reports of units that unexpectedly sprayed heated oil, resulting in reports of property damage involving damaged carpet and fabrics. No injuries have been reported.

This recall involves Holmes brand oil-filled heaters that are black or white in color. The heaters included in the recall are about 23 inches tall, 6 inches deep and 12 inches wide and have model number HOH3000 or HOH3000B printed on a label on the bottom of the product. The "Holmes" logo is near the power switch and temperature control. Products affected have a code on the heater plug blade within the following range: G192 through G298. No other codes are affected.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled heater, unplug it and contact Sunbeam for instructions on how to obtain a full refund.

For more information, please visit www.holmesproducts.com and click on "Oil Filled Heater Recall".

SALES CALLS REF RECALLS

Nova Bus Recalls



The National Highway Transportation & Safety Administration in cooperation with Nova Bus has issued a voluntary recall of the certain 2010-2014 LFS transit buses.

Certain N67588 alternator cables manufactured December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013 and sold as service parts for 2010-2014 LFS transit buses may have been damaged during installation. This damage can cause the cable terminal to fracture and result in the cable arcing to other components. Arcing of the alternator cable may result in an engine compartment fire.

Nova Bus will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the terminal and replace the cable if it is damaged, free of charge. This recall began on January 29, 2015. For more information, please contact Nova Bus customer service at 1-450-472-6410. Note: Buses that were manufactured with the subject alternator cable are covered under recall 14V381.

Toyota has voluntarily recalled the 2011 and 2012 Avalon Sedan. The automaker says cargo

Toyota Recalls Avalon Due to Fire Danger



in the truck could come into contact with wiring from the audio system's subwoofer. If the wire comes into contact with metal, it could short circuit, overheat and cause a fire. Toyota is not aware of any crashes, injuries or fatalities caused by this condition. Owners will receive a notification of the recall. Toyota dealers will provide a repair. As a precaution, Toyota dealers will disconnect the rear subwoofer.

For more information, please visit www.toyota.com/recall.

Kia Motors Recalls 80,000 2012-2014 Forte Models

Kia Motors has issued a recall notice pertaining to 2014 Kia Forte models, specifically those manufactured between December 2012 through April 14, 2014. The recall stems from reported incidents of engine fires. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration stated that the cooling resistor fan could malfunction, leading it to overheat and melt sparking the increased likelihood of a fire. The recall will officially begin on February 24, and specifically for the compact sedan models with a 1.8-liter engine.

Kia has reported several incidents of engine fires that have been linked to the defect. Owners will be notified and they can contact their local Kia dealer to have the engine control unit software updated, complete replacement of the cooling fan and multifuse unit. For more information, please visit www.kia.com or call 1-800-333-4542.



WHITEMORE

FIRE CONSULTANTS, INC.

PO Box 1261
Prior Lake, MN 55372
Telephone: 952-461-7000

www.whitemorefire.com



Are You On Our Distribution List?

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www.whitemorefire.com

Click on "Submit a Loss" tab

Complete the online form and press "submit" and you will receive an electronic confirmation of our receipt of your loss request. You will also receive a response from our on-call representative as well as a follow-up all during the next business day.