

## **Firefighters Activate New Propane Support Team**

Michigan's propane industry is a safe industry, however, accidents can happen. That is why the Michigan Propane Gas Association (MPGA) created the Propane Emergency Response Network (PERN). PERN takes out the guesswork of handling a propane emergency in your area.

The MPGA teamed up with first responders and law enforcement officers to provide immediate expertise on handling propane emergencies, in addition to working under the authority of the incident commander. PERN supports firefighters, state police, local sheriffs, and Hazmat officials.

Here's how to activate PERN.

In case of a propane incident that requires first responders, the chief-in-charge of the incident activates PERN by calling the following toll-free number– (866) 880-2564. This specific number was established for this type of occurrence. The number is monitored 24/7.

The PERN operator answers each call and will gather the necessary information about the incident from the chief-in-charge. A propane expert will then return the call within 10 minutes.

The propane expert will provide advice on the best way to handle the propane situation. The expert may deem it necessary to launch the PERN trailer, outfitted with the necessary equipment and manpower to assist in extinguishing the propane fire, as well as calling locally trained propane professionals to arrive on site.

“A propane accident is handled differently from a regular fire. Our propane emergency network provides the expertise needed to contain a propane issue effectively while keeping firefighters and the community safe,” said Bob Vandemark, PERN chairman.

The MPGA provides firefighters with hands-on training to handle any propane emergency.

For more information, contact the MPGA at (517) 487-2021 or go to the MPGA Web site, [www.UseMichiganPropane.com](http://www.UseMichiganPropane.com).

**Fire Fighters, Police, Local Sheriffs and Hazmat Officials Activate PERN in Case of a Propane Incident**

- 1) Call the PERN toll-free number: 866-880-2564
- 2) State name and level of authority
- 3) State incident or emergency
- 4) State location of incident including street address, intersection and city
- 5) Provide contact phone number



New PERN Trailer

## PERN Introduced to Michigan's First Responders

**M**ichigan Propane Gas Association introduced the Propane Emergency Response Network (PERN) program during the "All-Hazard Preparedness and Response" conference held on Oct. 6-8. The program was launched to the Michigan Emergency Management Association and the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, hosts of the 2008 Summit.

The MPGPA participated by having a booth at the conference to promote the new program. MPGPA's Propane Emergency team also conducted fire demonstrations in conjunction with the Traverse City Fire Department.

PERN is the MPGPA's newest program to assist first responders (fire fighters, state police, local sheriff and hazmat officials) when propane emergencies occur. PERN provides immediate contact with propane personnel to advise or be on-site to assist first responders at a propane emergency. The propane personnel also provide expert assistance in recommending the best way to handle an emergency; when serving on-site, the propane personnel will work under the first responder's authority.

Beginning in January 2009, one PERN test site will be established. The ultimate goal for PERN is to have four strategic locations throughout the state. ♦

# Propane Emergency Response Network



## Propane Safety Assistance Program

# Michigan's Propane Industry is a Safe Industry

## However... Accidents Can Happen

MPGA has teamed up with Michigan's first responders and law enforcement to provide immediate expertise on handling propane emergencies through the Propane Emergency Response Network (PERN).

PERN Provides Direct Services:

- for Propane Emergencies Only
- to the On-Site Commander of the Incident

For Assistance with a Propane  
Emergency, Call Toll-Free:

**866.880.2564**

The PERN network will respond  
within 10 minutes of the call

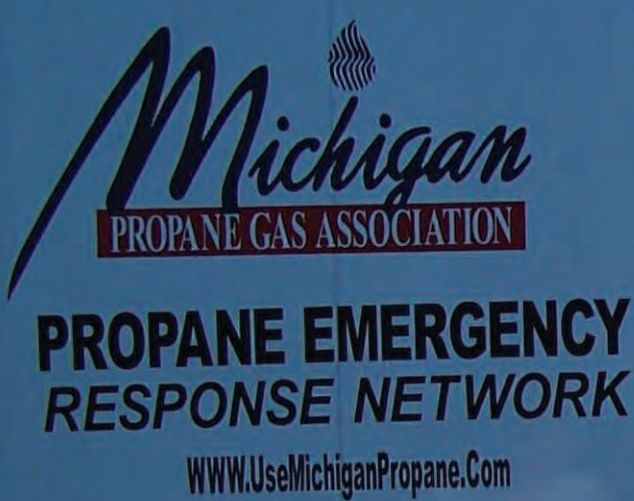
# Propane Emergency Response Network



Propane Safety  
Assistance Program



Call Toll-Free:  
**866.880.2564**



## PERN Provides Propane Emergency Assistance

PERN is a network of regionalized propane teams, staffed with trained propane personnel available to advise and assist First Responders in handling propane emergencies.

### PERN Provides:

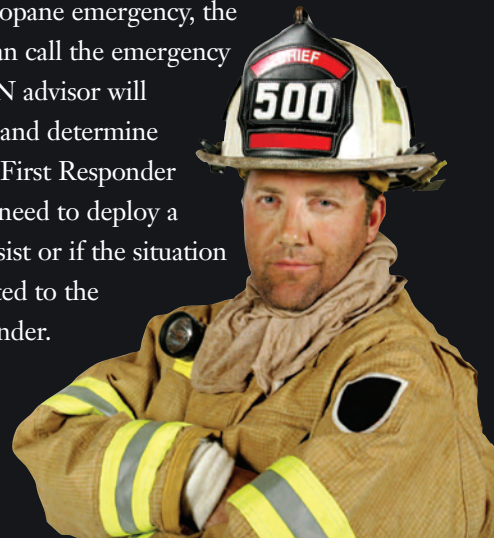
- Immediate contact with propane personnel to advise or be on-site to assist First Responders at a propane emergency
- Assistance in recommending the best way to handle the emergency for the on-site Incident Commander while working under their authority.



## First Responders Activate PERN

Activate PERN by calling the Toll Free number: 866.880.2564

In the event of a propane emergency, the First Responders can call the emergency number. The PERN advisor will assess the situation and determine in consult with the First Responder official if there is a need to deploy a propane team to assist or if the situation can be communicated to the on-site First Responder.



## MPGA is Committed to Keeping You and Your Community Safe

