



Press Release

Contact: Rebecca Mattano
Phone: 262-896-8014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: Monday June 15, 2015

Small Propane Cylinders Pose Hazards to Recycling Facility Workers

Waukesha, WI – Over the last several weeks, workers at the Waukesha County/City of Milwaukee Materials Recycling Facility have removed many small propane cylinders from the recyclables and there are concerns that this problem will continue to increase throughout the summer months. Waukesha County and the recycling facility operator, ReCommunity Recycling, ask residents not to place propane cylinders in their curbside recycling container.

Propane cylinders pose a very serious risk to workers because during the baling process materials are compressed under hundreds of pounds of pressure in order to form large bales for shipping. Even when the cylinders are empty, they remain pressurized and can explode when compacted.

“The operator strives to maintain a safe working environment for all employees at the recycling facility. We want residents to understand that certain items such as propane cylinders cannot be recycled in their recycling container due to the potential hazard to workers and equipment. They need to be specially handled by companies that sell these products,” stated Rebecca Mattano, Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste Supervisor.

Propane tank/cylinder manufacturers recommend consumers return unusable propane tanks to a local distributor. Please check for the 'manufacturer's tag' as a source of contact/disposal information. Alternatively, many local scrap metal collections or home improvement stores will accept empty propane cylinders for recycling. Please visit waukeshacounty.gov/recycling to find propane tank dealers in Waukesha County that will safely dispose of used or unwanted propane tanks.

###