

The Role of LP Gas in Natural Disasters



Being Prepared - Emergency Kits at the Ready - A WLPGA Case Study

Natural disasters are a tragic reality. Earthquakes, tsunami, hurricanes, floods strike frequently and often with very little warning causing disruption to power and energy networks. This can directly affect hundreds of thousands of people who are often forced to seek temporary accommodation. These survivors need fuel for warmth and for cooking. The unique benefits of LP Gas mean that it can be transported, stored and used virtually anywhere and this exceptional energy offers swift solutions in times of emergency.

This case study looks at how some companies are preparing in advance.

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1. Why Emergency Kits?

LP Gas has distinct advantages compared to other fuels that are particularly pertinent in such times of crisis, notably in terms of storage, transportation. LP Gas is a safe, ready to use and easily packaged energy. It has been proven that LP Gas is the fuel that can really help in times of natural disasters by giving an effective and rapid response.

In these times of crisis there is often a significant concentration of displaced homeless citizens who are necessarily moved to rapidly set up meeting points or camps where all too frequently access to lighting, cooking and heating is very limited. In these situations, portable LP Gas systems are the perfect solution for emergency cooking, lighting and heating needs.

With this background, Repsol LPG Executive Direction, with the support of Repsol Foundation, has designed an Emergency Kit comprising appliances that are not only useful but potentially life-saving in these catastrophic type of situations



- Repsol has been working with organisations such as the Red Cross in disaster situations for many years.
- The idea of kits arose after analysis of what is needed in a disaster zone to provide humanitarian aid **especially during the crucial first hours after an event.**
- The particular characteristics of LP Gas make it ideal as a base for these life-saving kits.

These kits can be requested by NGOs and national governments through Repsol and the Repsol Foundation

2. What is in a Kit?

The Emergency Kit contains:

- A stove
- A basic kitchen set (casserole, skillet dish, two spoons, two forks and two cups)
- A lamp
- Height cartridges of 190 grams if butane

All the devices are equipped with piezoelectric systems which means that no matches or lighters are needed.



Photo shows senior members of the Repsol Foundation and RAEM

3. The Role of the Foundation

The project development involved the participation of several corporate LP Gas business areas, as well as certain Repsol Corporate Divisions and external companies, and of course significant participation from the Image and Advertising LPG Direction and the **Repsol Foundation**.

The **Repsol Foundation** espouses the social role of Repsol as a company and its voluntary engagement to more sustainable and safe communities where it operates. The Foundation works to maximise the global benefits of Repsol's activities.

The kits have a worldwide scope and will be used wherever they are needed. Repsol's global reach will enable speedy delivery of kits to provide humanitarian assistance in disaster stricken areas and refugee camps.

4. Emergency Military Unit (UME) Donation

An significant quantity of the kits (over 1,000 units) were donated to the Spanish Emergency Military Unit (UME). The main mission of the UME is rapid intervention throughout Spain to ensure the safety, security and welfare of citizens during such natural disasters as floods, earthquakes, landslides, snowstorms and forest fires.

The donation of these kits will help the UME respond more efficiently to emergency and catastrophic situations and to help minimise the first effects of such disasters.

The official delivery ceremony of the Emergency Kits to UME took place in July 2012 at the Emergency Support Regiment (RAEM) on the Air Force base of Torrejón de Ardoz in Madrid. The Vice-president of the Repsol Foundation, Mr César Gallo, and other Foundation and corporate representatives were welcomed by the Air Marshal and the Emergency Military Unit Commander, José Emilio Roldán.

A further **2,000** emergency kits will be stored at Pinto, an LP Gas Filling Plant and these Emergency kits will be available for other humanitarian organisations such as The Red Cross and the Spanish Agency for the International Cooperation and Development (AECID).



5. Acknowledgements

Mr Armando Viçoso, Repsol

