

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Michael Hopsicker, President & CEO

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." That's a memorable quip from Doug Larson published in the *Green Bay Gazette* many years ago and a sentiment particularly apt after this past winter. Across the eastern US we were happy to experience a good, old fashioned, cold winter. Snow, slush, ice and frigid temps; we had it all and that's a good thing for our industry!



For propane marketers that means delivering the fuel that keeps American homes and businesses warm. For hearth retailers that means installing and servicing the fireplaces and stoves that keep us cozy while the snow is falling outside. And for outdoor dealers a cold winter cooped up inside gets folks excited about being in the backyard again. We were happy to support you by shipping thousands of the products you need to keep your customers warm, safe and comfortable.

At RMI we dealt with the weather as it came. There were a few days when shipments weren't able to be picked up. And dangerous road conditions slowed down carriers. However, our integrated phone system and inventory stocked across multiple locations means that whatever the weather, we remain open and ready to help!

This spring also means the winding down of my year serving as NPGA Chairman. A busy travel schedule had me attending many national and state association meetings with a few more to come before my term ends in June. Memorable experiences included ice fishing in Minnesota and enjoying true lone star hospitality in Texas. I've really enjoyed meeting industry partners across the country and remain bullish on the future.

As always, thank you for your business! I look forward to a great spring and summer. And remember, *whatever the weather, we are here for you!*

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## INDUSTRY EVENTS

- 4/18 - 4/21: NPGA Southeast Convention
- 4/26 - 4/28: AIWD Convention
- 5/4: MAHPBA Annual Meeting
- 5/11 - 5/15: Western Propane Gas Convention
- 5/12 - 5/13: MSHPBA Burn & Learn
- 5/17 - 5/20: Eastern Energy Expo
- 5/31 - 6/2: NEHPBA Annual Meeting
- 6/1 - 6/3: IWDC Convention
- 6/7: NCHPBA Annual Meeting
- 8/4 - 8/5: MWHPBA Annual Meeting
- 8/12 - 8/13: Northeast Propane Show
- 9/20 - 9/23: GAWDA Convention

## RMI CATALOGS



Edition 12, Propane Equip.



2026 Outdoor Living

Available online @ [www.raymurray.com](http://www.raymurray.com)

## TOP BRANDS - IN-STOCK AT RMI





## TECHNICIAN'S CORNER

by Geoff Barstow, RMI Technical Support



**With the thawing of the ground in spring comes the burial of gas lines.** Homeowners, landscapers, hardscapers, utility workers and others contractors are also breaking the soil for various reasons which can pose a risk to underground utilities.

### What is the code for buried gas lines?

National and Local Gas codes address buried line materials, depth, backfill material and protection. The RMI Technical Team can offer support to find the National and some local codes.

Listed are some of the National codes to be aware of:

#### LPG: NFPA 58, 2024 Edition

- 5.11.3 – 5.11.5: Acceptable pipe/fittings
- 6.11.1: Acceptable pressure ratings
- 6.11.3; 6.11.4; 6.11.5.1 – 6.11.5.3; 6.11.5.7 – 6.11.5.9: Installation and Protection of UG pipe



#### NG and LPG: NFPA 54, 2024 Edition

- 7.1: Installation and Protection of UG pipe



#### 811 / "Dig Safe"

- Contact your local Authority Having Jurisdiction to determine local requirements.

### UNDERGROUND PIPING PRODUCTS:

- The RMI Technical Team has generally recommended **Polyethylene Pipe PE2046** at pressures approximating 10 PSIG for underground gas lines.
- **Rycom Line Locators** help accurately detect underground utilities.
- **Shovel Barrier (SB-325)** is a 325' x 5.5" woven warning material with tracer wire that also protects against puncture.
- **Sleeve Lead (SL-KIT)** is a solution for underground boring across areas that can't be crossed with an open trench such as under sidewalks and patios.
- Other products provide Corrosion Protection for underground LPG tanks and metallic lines, if chosen. These include special coatings, dielectric fittings and galvanic anodes. See *RMI LP Catalog, Edition 12: pages 118-121*



Rycom line locators



Shovel Barrier



## ORTAL at RMI

**Redesigning fire, for more than 30 years,** Ortal has been the world's premier designer and builder of high-quality, luxury, contemporary frameless gas fireplaces. Ortal leads with meticulous attention to aesthetics and to developing exclusive fire technologies. Ortal has built its reputation on uncompromising quality of materials, finish, safety standards, ease of installation, selection and end-to-end service.



ORTAL is available from RMI in the following states only: KS, KY, IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI



## NEW FACES AT RMI

### RMI WELCOMES RALPH POOLE

We are excited to announce that Ralph Poole has joined the Ray Murray, Inc. / Teeco team as LP Technical Support.



Ralph comes with 26 years of valuable industry experience and served 20 years in the US Army prior to his career in the propane industry. Ralph has experience in all things LP, with a specific expertise in plant, truck and industrial applications.

Ralph is available to assist the RMI team and customers on the East Coast, while also serving as an LP Technical Support resource for the Teeco team and customers on the West Coast. He will help us continue to develop our plant, truck, and industrial business nationwide.



413-961-9528



rpoole@raymurray.com

## >>> PERFECTION 2.0 TOOLS

As a master Honeywell Perfection distributor RMI has all the products you need in-stock and ready to ship.

**IMPORTANT >>>** Perfection 2.0 fittings require the use of the **YELLOW** 2.0 chamfer tool. If you still have the older grey tools please contact us to get the new tools for your technicians.



Honeywell Perfection



## MASON-LITE NOW AVAILABLE AT RMI

Mason-Lite fireplaces are now in-stock and available from RMI across our full service area! Since 2005, Mason-Lite has been a premier provider of traditional and contemporary lightweight masonry fireplaces costing up to 50% less than hand-built masonry fireplace alternatives. Mason-Lite allows full custom design flexibility: *Traditional, Linear, Open Hearth, Multi-sided.*

- Wood & gas burning fireplaces for indoor and outdoor applications
- All standard kits include mortar, t-bar for lintel, and re-bar
- Optional firebrick panels available for quick & easy install
- Full custom design and build capabilities
- ANSI Z21 compliant; UL & ULC tested and listed
- Made-in-USA of American sourced materials
- Fully crated skids to reduce shipping damage
- Glass door tested and listed



## TREND ALERT: OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

RMI stocks outdoor fireplaces in a number of different styles and configurations from many of the top brands. Gas, Wood and now Electric outdoor-approved fireplaces are available in linear, traditional, free-standing and built-in models. However, there are some specific considerations for the successful installation of these fireplaces in the outdoor environment.

### Things to consider:

- What type of fuel will be used?
- How will gas and/or electric be run to the fireplace location?
- What, if any, venting is required?
- What are clearances to combustibles?
- Will the fireplace be fully exposed?
  - Outdoor-approved units may still have requirements for protection.
- How will water be managed inside the unit and the structure?
- Is this a harsh, coastal, salt-air location?
- What are the local codes?
- What permits are required?



Majestic Courtyard Outdoor Fireplace



**Smith Precision Products was started in 1938** by Reuben Stanley Smith. As a remarkable American inventor, Reuben focused on quality and provided innovative designs that would stand the test of time.

Between 1945-1947 Reuben authored the first technical articles centered on the pumping of LPG which were published in Butane-Propane News (BPN). Between 1934 and 1948, he filed 10 more patents, adding to the 51 already granted. Reuben's son, Lawrence, joined the company in 1945 and worked hard to uphold his father's values and re-engineer the original product line.

In 1948 Lawrence Smith designed and patented the first mechanical seal used in a liquefied gas pump. He then redesigned the company's line of pumps and sharpened his father's design to better handle the nature of liquefied gases. By 1953, the company was selling a line of six pumps that could transfer between 20-100 GPM.



After working with the Underwriters Laboratories, U.L. published the first Standard for LPG pumps in 1955. The company was the first to List a pump for LPG with U.L. in 1955 and the entire pump line followed.



Perfecting the design of Liquefied Gas Pumps since 1938

Today, the fourth generation of Smiths are striving to improve and strengthen the company's ability to provide an even better level of service.



RMI is hosting Smith training in June in Lee & Bensalem. Contact your rep for more info.



## HPBA TRAINER OF THE YEAR



(L-R) Jill McClure, HPBA President & CEO, Chris Wolfe, Kris Richardson, HPBA Chairman

On March 20 at HPBExpo in New Orleans, RMI's Chris Wolfe was recognized as the 2026 HPBA Trainer of The Year. This national award recognizes Chris's ongoing dedication and excellence in the education and training of hearth industry professionals.

**Congratulations Chris on your well deserved award!**





## IMPORTANT RMI CONTACTS

### Customer Service

For product info, to place orders, check order status, file warranty claims and other general inquires.

- 7am - 5pm EST, M-F
- 1-800-628-5044**
- Orders: [orders@raymurray.com](mailto:orders@raymurray.com)
- Warranty: [warranty@raymurray.com](mailto:warranty@raymurray.com)

### Technical Support

RMI's Technical Support is available as a value added resource for our customers.

- 8am - 5pm EST, M-F
- 1-800-628-5044**
- [technical@raymurray.com](mailto:technical@raymurray.com)



**Training Schedule**

[www.raymurray.com/training-events](http://www.raymurray.com/training-events)

## www.raymurray.com

Conveniently check inventory & place orders 24/7 @ [www.raymurray.com](http://www.raymurray.com)

- Click "**Sign In**" on top right of homepage to begin shopping.
  - To register for access follow prompts to "Register" for new account.
  - You must have an RMI account number to register for access.



## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

by Chris Wolfe, Manager of Technical Support & Training



### Q Is this gas line bonded? Does it need to be bonded?

**A** *The answer is no and maybe respectively.* Since the 2018 edition of NFPA 54 and the IFGC, arc-resistant CSST (Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing) shall be considered to be bonded where it is connected to an appliance that is connected to the appliance grounding conductor of the circuit that supplies that appliance. Previous editions did not recognize the arc-resistant material and required bonding with different methods in each edition starting in 2009.

- Per the code and manufacturers instructions, the point of connection of the bonding wire must be to metallic pipe, pipe fitting or CSST fitting. Not the tubing.
- The bonding wire must then be connected to the electrical service grounding electrode system or, where provided, the lightning protection grounding electrode system. Not the cold-water pipe.
- The strip length of the arc-resistant coating is critical for the system to transfer the energy down the pipe. This connection has too much material removed.
- Although your state adopted codes may not require bonding, you should check with your local AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) for their requirements.
- Yellow coated CSST must always be bonded.
- Anyone installing or servicing CSST must be certified and trained on the tubing that they are working with.



**Have you seen a funky installation that doesn't look quite right?** Email a picture to [cwolfe@raymurray.com](mailto:cwolfe@raymurray.com) and if we use it in a future newsletter you'll get a \$150 credit to your account.

