

May 2010

## **Notice of Safety Improvement – Recall and Retrofit Oxygen Transfill Hose Assemblies**

Broco, Inc. has recently modified our transfill hose assemblies to include flow restrictors that limit the rate of transfer of oxygen between cylinders. Flow restrictors in a transfill hose assembly minimize human-factor induced risk previously dependent upon an operator's interpretation and application of slow-filling technique as described in the instructions.

With the continued safety and well being of our customers as our priority, Broco is recalling and retrofitting all oxygen transfill hose assemblies shipped prior to April 2010 free of charge. Strictly as a precautionary measure, hose assemblies must be safely removed from service and returned to Broco for upgrade or replacement.

Transfer of oxygen from a full cylinder to an empty one is a safe procedure when performed correctly. Proper steps are detailed in the Broco Tactical and Rescue/Recovery cutting torch operating instructions manuals.

Yet there are significant risks of injury and death when working with high pressure oxygen. Hydrocarbons and other contaminants are extremely combustible, more so in a high oxygen atmosphere. And the higher the concentration of oxygen, the lower the corresponding flash point.

When a valve is opened and gas flows from a high pressure source into a regulator, or manifold, or other cylinder there is compression resulting in heat. The heat generated from compression can become extreme and enough to ignite contaminants inside regulators, hoses and cylinders causing catastrophic equipment failure. Slowing the rate of compression reduces heat and lowers the attendant hazard.

We believe strongly that the increase to operational safety from this improvement outweighs inconvenience or expense. To that end a pre-addressed UPS label will be provided to make returns easier. We ask that this opportunity be taken advantage of as quickly as possible.

For further information or if there is an issue concerning return of hose assemblies to Broco, please contact Broco customer service by telephone (1 909 483 3222) or email ([sales@brocoinc.com](mailto:sales@brocoinc.com))

Sincerely,  
Broco, Inc.

Thomas Joos  
Vice President