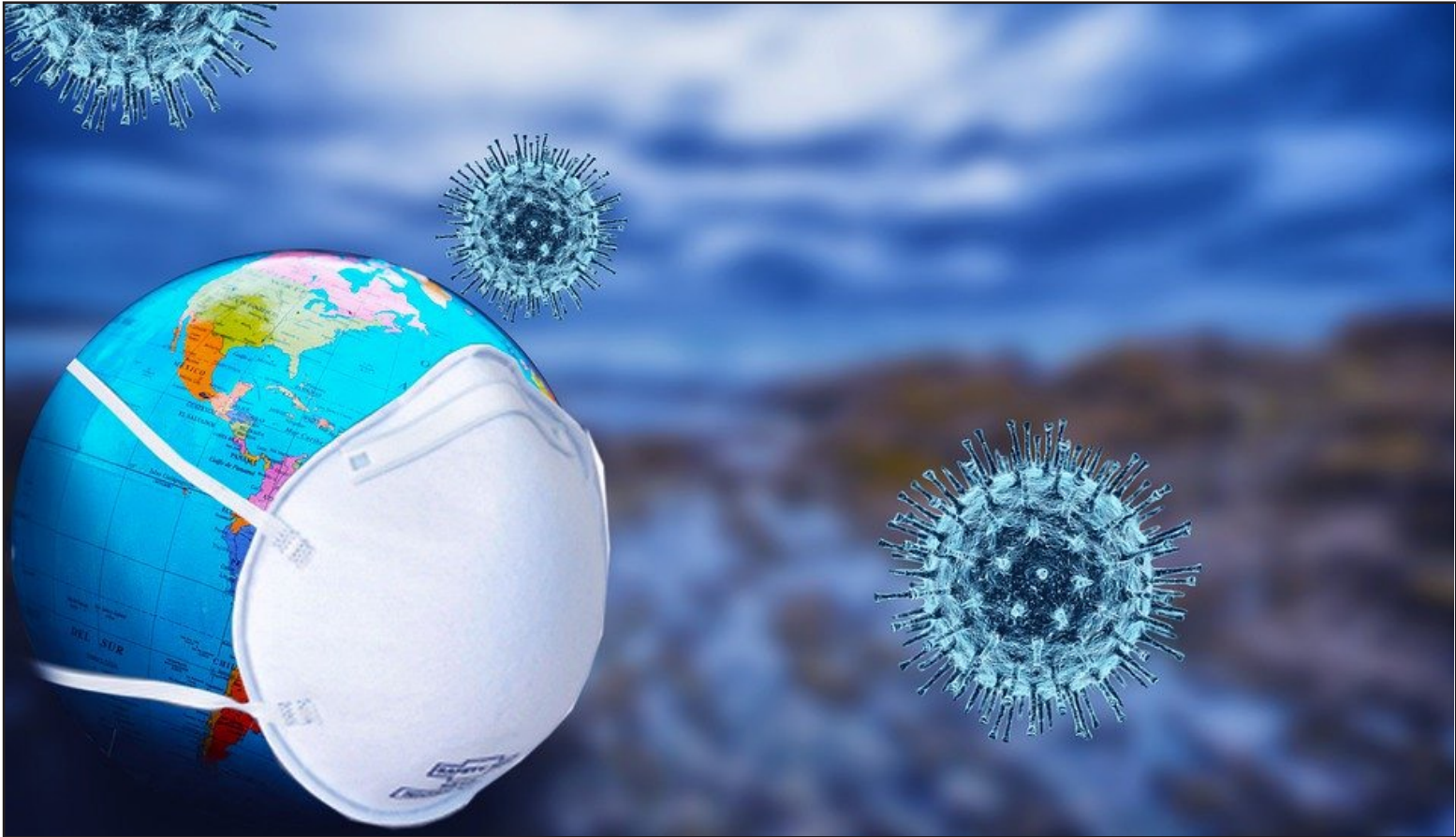


Americans Rise to the Challenge Covid-19 Presents



The Covid pandemic has affected industries in such a way that businesses are finding new, innovative methods to compensate for the impact this virus has caused.

Americans nationwide came to action and geared up to produce personal protective equipment, ventilators, and the many products that consumers needed for everyday life in the face of one of the most dangerous pandemics in history. The speed at which this country's resources were placed into action was remarkable.

Many companies have been required to change or alter their production levels or revise their manufacturing product to keep up with consumer demands or health needs because of the challenges

this worldwide pandemic has presented.

Hardships associated with the outbreak of the coronavirus are far reaching. The sickness and death have been devastating to this country, its families, and businesses; not to mention the worldwide impact Covid-19 has wrought.

Business shut down and employee lay-offs have put a strain on management, production planning, and maintenance of equipment. Reduced staffing in some cases and/or increased production in others, has put maintenance on the back burner of many companies. In some cases, inexperienced personnel may be attempting to perform non-

standard maintenance department procedures in order to keep equipment in operation.

Limited or no access to outside vendors requires inexperienced or already overworked plant personnel to perform some repairs or preventive maintenance functions, which may include adding new equipment or modifying existing production lines. These job duties are usually reserved for qualified vendors.

Jobs that normally require two or more individuals to perform are now further limited by the requirement of maintaining safe distances to others, which presents its own set of challenges.

There are no easy answers, yet, problems need to be solved and there is a direct correlation to these issues such as safety for personnel having direct or near access to pressure equipment and production.

Planning and scheduling must now be utilized to achieve the most with limited or restrictive access and resources.

Consideration could be given to the following:

- Revise work orders, planning unnecessary equipment changes ties up personnel.
- Contracting vendors who utilize safe working practices.
- Qualified temporary help.
- Additional training of existing staff.
- Proper lay-up or storing of idle equipment.

In most states or provinces Boilers and Pressure Vessels, which include some refrigeration systems, require safety inspections for continued operation. The Coronavirus has forced some postponements to the mandatory inspections. As a rule, these inspections are required to be performed within a specified time period based on the last inspection.

In some cases these inspection requirements have been modified or postponed.

As of the writing, the following states and

provinces have temporarily revised or modified their rules because of Covid-19:

Alberta
Arkansas
British Columbia
California
Colorado
Georgia
Hawaii
Massachusetts
Michigan
North Carolina
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Oregon
Seattle Washington
South Carolina
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

It should be noted that as a general rule, any company or individual installing boilers or pressure vessels subject to inspection in accordance with these rules, shall notify the proper Department responsible and request a certificate inspection not less than 10 working days prior to placing equipment in operation. Any company or individual wishing to install used boilers or pressure vessels that are subject to inspection, shall request permission using the Used Boiler/Pressure from the Boiler Safety Bureau. Equipment shall not be operated, other than for testing prior to an inspection being conducted that finds the boiler or pressure vessel to be in compliance.

It is advised that you consult with you inspector or contact your State or Provincial Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspection Department for your specific requirements.

Inspections will be required regardless and at some point, accommodations will need to be made for the inspection.

Notice from the State of North Carolina

The following notice appeared on the NC Department of Labor site; it enforces the need for safe operation and maintenance of boilers:

Furnace Explosions

Recent furnace explosions serve as a reminder that boilers must be maintained and operated in strict compliance with the manufacturers' recommendations. A furnace explosion is usually the result of ignition and instantaneous combustion of highly flammable gas, vapor, or dust that has accumulated in a boiler. The effect of the force from the explosion is often much greater than the boiler combustion chamber can withstand.

Minor explosions, commonly known as deflagration, puffs, flarebacks, or blowbacks, may suddenly blow flames from firing doors and observation ports. Anyone in the path of a flame, which might extend many feet, may be seriously burned. An increase in the intensity of the explosion would naturally increase the probability of a serious accident.

Furnace explosions may be avoided by taking reasonable precautions:

- Ensure that fuel inlet valves on nonoperating burners and ignitors are

tightly closed and do not leak.

- Purge the furnace in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications each time before the first burner is ignited.
- Ensure that the ignitors, fuel regulating controls, and flame safeguards operate as required.
- Ensure that the fuel/air ratio is in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Remove oil guns from idle burners after closing the oil and air or steam supply valves when shutting down oil burners. Drain and clean residual oil from the guns before storage.
- Never use the boiler's soot blowers to blow soot in a cold boiler.
- Ensure that limit and operating controls are in good working condition and are not "by-passed" or "jumpered-out."

Proper operation, proper maintenance, and timely inspection are key elements in ensuring safe boiler operation. For more information contact the North Carolina Department of Labor, Boiler Safety Bureau.

Safety Valves and Pressure Reducing Valves

Safety relief valves are relatively maintenance-free devices. Even so, it is recommended that a periodic inspection and testing of these devices be done.

Perform Regular Testing on Boiler Pressure Relief Valves:

- High-pressure steam boilers greater than 15 psi and less than 400 psi – perform manual check every six months and pressure test annually to verify nameplate set pressure
- High-pressure steam boilers 400 psi and greater – pressure test to verify nameplate set pressure every three years or as

determined by operating experience as verified by testing history

- High-temperature hot water boilers (greater than 160 psi and/or 250 degrees Fahrenheit) – pressure test annually to verify nameplate set pressure. For safety reasons, removal and testing on a test bench is recommended
- Low-pressure steam boilers (15 psi and less) – manually check quarterly and pressure test annually
- Hot water heating boilers – manually check quarterly and pressure test annually
- Water heaters – manually check every two

months and replace defective valves with a new valve if a repair or resetting is indicated.

It should be noted that some jurisdictions may have regulations that mandate testing and replacement of boiler safety valves that may differ from those above. Questions should be directed to your jurisdictional inspector or State Department of Labor.

Qualified personnel should be utilized to perform testing and/or repair or replacement if required.

Failing check valves will start to vibrate and even lose some internal parts when problems begin to arise.

Sticking happens when the valve is stuck in a certain position, and it occurs when debris gets into the disc and body bore. Leaks stem from a damaged seat or disc or contaminants in the pipeline.

Here are five symptoms that could indicate that your pressure reducing valve is going bad:

- Diminishing water pressure.
- No water pressure.
- Hammering or vibrating noises in your walls.
- A leak in your flower bed or landscaping close to the house or building could be a leaking PRV.
- High water pressure.

Lennox Industries Recalls Ductless Heat Pumps Due to Fire Hazard



Recalled Lennox Ductless Heat Pumps- MPA018S4M

Name of product: Lennox Ductless Single-Zone and Multi-Zone heat pumps

Hazard: Internal electrical components can fail, allowing the units to overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Replace

Recall date: February 27, 2020

Units: About 1,650 (in addition, about 380 were sold in Canada)

Consumer Contact: Lennox at 800-527-3506 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or by clicking on the Recall Notice posting on

the landing page of <https://www.lennox.com> or by visiting <https://www.lennox.com/about/safety/product-recalls>.

Recall Details

In Conjunction With:

Description: This recall involves three models of Lennox Ductless Single-Zone or Multi-Zone heat pumps. The model and serial numbers can be found on the nameplate on the side of the units. Only heat pumps with the following model and serial numbers are included in the recall:

LII MODEL NUMBER	SERIAL NUMBER	SALE DATE RANGE (UNITED STATES AND CANADA)
MPA018S4M-1P	6915XXXXXX or 6916XXXXXX	Jan. 2016 through Nov. 2019
MPA048S4S-1P	6915XXXXXX or 6916XXXXXX	Feb. 2016 through Nov. 2019
MPA048S4M-1P	6915XXXXXX or 6916XXXXXX	Jan. 2016 through Nov. 2019

Remedy:

Consumers should immediately contact their installing servicer, dealer, or contractor to arrange



for a free replacement of the outdoor unit. While awaiting replacement, consumers should monitor the recalled heat pumps while they are being operated and keep foliage and other flammable items at least 24 inches away from the recalled units. Lennox is contacting all known

included a small hole in the heat pump motor due to melting and one report of the fan blade and motor catching fire. No injuries have been reported.



Sold At: Lennox independent dealers nationwide from January 2016 through November 2019 for between \$8,700 and \$15,550.

Importer(s): Lennox Industries Inc. and/or Lennox Industries (Canada) Ltd., of Canada

Manufactured In: China

Recall number: 20-083

Report an Incident Involving this Product.

independent dealers about the recall directly. The dealers will contact individual consumers to arrange for recalled outdoor units to be removed and replacement units to be installed.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received two reports, both in Canada, of overheating. One report

Star Water Systems Recalls Sump Pumps Due to Fire Hazard



Recalled Utilitech sump pump and manufacture label

Name of product:

Sump Pumps sold under Utilitech, Do It and Star Water Systems brands

Hazard: The sump pumps can overheat, posing a risk of fire.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: February 6, 2020

Units: About 33,000

Consumer Contact: Star Water Systems at 800-742-5044 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ET Monday through Friday or online

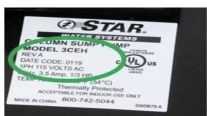
at <https://www.starwatersystems.com/en-na/> and click on “Recall Information” for more information.

Recall Details

Description: This recall involves pedestal sump pumps that are used in residential de-watering. The sump pumps are sold under three brand names: Utilitech, Do It and Star Water Systems. The model and manufacture date codes are printed on the nameplate on the sump pump. Only the following model numbers, date codes and UPC codes of the pumps are included in the recall:

Brand Name	Model #	Manufacturing Date Codes	UPC Codes
Utilitech	#148009	1017 - 0219	054757098483
Do It	#433063	0214 - 0219	009326405087
Star Water Systems	#3CEH	0715 - 0219	054757000721

Remedy: Consumers should immediately unplug the recalled sump pumps and contact Star Water Systems for instructions to disable their pump and to obtain a full refund.



Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received six reports of the recalled sump pumps smoking. No injuries have been reported.

Sold At: Lowe’s, Do It Best, Orscheln Farm & Home, HEP Sales, Carter Lumber, Theisen’s, Falder’s, Big R, Holmes Lumber, Schlemmer Hardware, Elnes Marketing, JFW Sales & Marketing, and MK Enterprises

and online at Amazon.com from June 2014 through December 2019 for about \$100.

Manufacturer(s): Junhe Pumps Holding Co., Ltd., of China

Importer(s): Star Water Systems, of Kendallville, Ind.

Distributor(s): Star Water Systems, of Kendallville, Ind.

Manufactured In: China

Recall number: 20-069



Bosch Thermotechnology Recalls Buderus Boilers Due to Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hazard



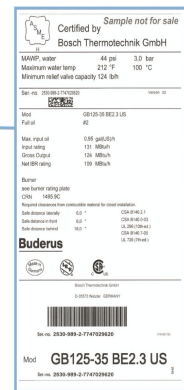
Recalled Buderus GB125-35 oil condensing boiler

click on the “Knowledge” tab, then click on “Product Approvals, Certifications & Regulatory Info” for more information.

Recall Details

Description: This recall involves Buderus brand GB125-35 oil-condensing boilers distributed by Bosch. The boilers have a blue enclosure, and the GB125-35 model number is located on the data plate near the top right hand side of the boiler. The Buderus brand name is printed on the outside of the boiler’s blue enclosure. Bosch Thermotechnology and the model number are printed on a white label on the blue enclosure.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately contact Bosch for a free repair. Consumers who continue to use the boilers while awaiting repair should have a working carbon monoxide alarm installed outside of sleeping areas in the home.



Name of product: Buderus GB125-35 oil-condensing boilers

Hazard: The siphon can become blocked, leading to a delayed ignition that can damage the boiler’s exhaust system, creating a carbon monoxide hazard.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: December 20, 2019

Units: About 170

Consumer Contact: Bosch Thermotechnology at 800-323-1943 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, via email at GB125.35Recall@us.bosch.com; or online at <https://www.bosch-thermotechnology.us/us/en/residential/home/> and

Incidents/Injuries: None reported in the U.S.
Sold At: Wholesale distributors and installed by independent contractors nationwide from June 2008 through September 2012 for about \$6,000.
Manufacturer(s): Bosch Thermotechnik GmbH, of Germany

Importer(s): Bosch Thermotechnology Corp., of Watertown, Mass.
Distributor(s): Bosch Thermotechnology Corp., of Watertown, Mass.
Manufactured In: Germany
Recall number: 20-046

American Honda Recall of Portable Generators Due to Fire and Burn Hazards



Recalled EB2200i portable generator

Name of product: Honda EB2200i, EU2200i, EU2200i Companion and EU2200i Camo Portable Generators

Hazard: The portable generator’s inverter assembly can short circuit with the presence of salt water. This causes the unit to smoke or catch fire, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: March 17, 2020

Units: About 340,000 (about 200,000 units were previously recalled in 2019)

Consumer Contact: American Honda toll-free at 888-888-3139 from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at <https://powerequipment>

[.honda.com/](https://www.honda.com/) and click on “Recalls and Updates” at the bottom of the page for more information.

Recall Details

Description: This recall involves Honda EB2200i, EU2200i, EU2200i Companion and EU2200i Camo portable generators. The recalled portable generators were sold with a red or Camo cover. The name “HONDA” and the generator model name are printed on the control panel. The serial number is located on a lower corner of one of the side panels of the generator. The model names and serial number ranges that are being recalled:

Model Name	Serial Number Range
EB2200i	EAJT-1000001 thru 1011342
EU2200i	EAMT-1000001 thru 2098790
EU2200i Companion	EAMT1000001 thru 2098790
EU2200i Camo	EAMT-1000001 thru 2098790

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled generators and contact a local authorized Honda Power Equipment service dealer to schedule a free repair. Honda is contacting all known purchasers directly. Consumers who took part in the previous





recall for these generators should also take part in this recall.

Incidents/Injuries: Honda has received 13 reports of the generator's inverter assembly short-circuiting while in use, including 10 reports of fire. No injuries or property damage reported.

Sold At: Authorized Honda Power Equipment Dealers,



The Home Depot and other home improvement stores nationwide, and online from February 2018 through January 2020 for between \$1,100 to \$1,300.

Importer(s): American Honda Motor Company Inc., Torrance Calif.

Manufactured In: Thailand

Recall number: 20-090



**Got an important message for your fellow NABO members?
Have an announcement that you'd like to share?
Send your submissions for the *NABO NOW!* newsletter to
paul.welch@tuvsud.com**