

**EPA Warning: Recharging Air Conditioners with Wrong Refrigerant Poses Injury and Fire Risks**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is cautioning homeowners, manufacturers of propane-based refrigerants, home improvement contractors and air conditioning technicians of the safety hazards related to the use of propane in existing motor vehicle and home air conditioning systems.

A number of refrigerants with "22a" or "R-22a" in the name contain highly flammable hydrocarbons, such as propane. These refrigerants are being marketed to consumers seeking to recharge existing home and motor vehicle air conditioning systems that were not designed to use propane or other flammable refrigerants. These refrigerants have never been submitted to EPA for review of their health and environmental impacts and are not approved for use in existing air conditioning systems.

Using propane-based refrigerant in an air conditioner that is not designed for flammable refrigerants poses a threat to homeowners as well as service technicians because systems that are recharged with "22a" refrigerants can catch fire or explode resulting in injury and property damage. EPA is investigating instances where propane-based refrigerants have been marketed and used as substitutes for HCFC-22 (R-22) and will take enforcement actions where appropriate.

**Seeking Victims in the Matter of Super-Freeze 22a and Other Flammable Refrigerants**

The FBI, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Criminal Investigation Division, and the U.S. Department of Transportation - Office of Inspector General are conducting an investigation into a flammable "refrigerant" sold as Super-Freeze 22a, Super-Freeze12a, Super-Freeze 134a, Enviro-Safe 22a, and R134a. These products have not been submitted to the EPA for review as alternative and accepted refrigerants.