

FUEL GAS FIRE AND EXPLOSION DEFENSE

UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE PROTECTING CLIENTS IN COMPLEX FUEL GAS FIRE AND EXPLOSION CASES

30+ years advising fuel gas valve, cylinder, and tank manufacturers and sellers in the compressed, liquefied, propane, natural, and diesel fuel gas industries

800+ fuel gas discharge, fire, and explosion investigations in the U.S., Canada, and South America

500+ burn injury, property damage, and warranty claims and lawsuits concluded

For over three decades, our dedicated fuel gas fire and explosion team has advised makers of liquefied, compressed, natural, and other fuel gas valves, cylinders, and tanks in personal injury, product liability, warranty, and commercial disputes.

We provide practical and effective advice backed by decades of hands-on experience with these products and systems. We understand how these products are designed, manufactured, and tested to meet or exceed International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Department of Transportation (DOT), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), and Underwriter Laboratories (UL) standards. Our team knows how products are used under federal and state regulations and local building, plumbing, and gas codes, and the potential hazards arising from misuse in commercial and consumer applications.

Our team responds quickly in emergencies, as many of our cases involve severe and sometimes catastrophic burn injuries and death or substantial damage to property. We investigate these accidents to find the evidence buried in the physical damage that often occurs. We uncover the truth about the root cause and where the responsibility lies.

Strong Relationships, Proven Results

Few can compete with our level of experience and track record of success in courtrooms and arbitration and mediation tribunals. We've achieved dismissals and resolved hundreds of cases by summary motion, often with no monetary payment. We've obtained defense verdicts in sensitive, emotional personal injury matters, settled tough cases on a favorable basis, and, in an era of rising awards, we keep settlements in check.

We also help clients navigate investigations conducted by the U.S. National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) and U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Board (CSB) and in responding to inquiries from comparable state and local officials.



Representative Experience

Tried burn injury cases to defense verdict:

- Multi-party case arising from a propane tank explosion at a music festival in Louisiana (upheld on appeal)
- Case against aerosol can manufacturer in Queens, New York
- A wrongful death case against an electrical switch manufacturer arising from an arc blast at a manufacturing plant in New York

Resolved at mediation or otherwise:

- Commercial property damage disputes arising from explosions and fires at compressed gas distribution facilities in Arizona and Missouri
- Multi-party burn injury and a wrongful death claims arising from a propane explosion at a construction site in Massachusetts
- Serious burn injury claims arising from medical oxygen fires
- Multiple wrongful death and burn injury claims arising from a propane tank discharge and fire in Pennsylvania
- Claims arising from cryogenic freezer failure in Chicago, Illinois

Obtained summary judgment in:

- Consolidated negligence, premises liability, and products liability cases arising from fatal underground storage tank accident and other matters involving oxygen and propane valves

Represented parties in government investigations:

- Medical oxygen releases in Texas
- Case arising from sinking of passenger vessel on Lake George, New York
- Chemical Safety Board investigations arising from plant explosions and resulting release of chemicals

For a full list of representative trials, verdicts, summary dismissals, and governmental investigations, contact our team members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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ABOUT NIXON PEABODY LLP

At Nixon Peabody, we see 21st century law as a tool to help shape our clients' futures. We are constantly thinking about what is important to our clients now and next so we can foresee obstacles and opportunities in their space and smooth the way. We work together to handle complex challenges in real estate, litigation, corporate law, intellectual property, and finance anywhere in the world.