

Vince Pitelka, 2016

### **Cone-6 and Cone-10 Soda-Firing in ACC Soda Kiln – Quick Reference Guide**

**NOTE:** See the *Firing the ACC Soda Kiln* handout for details and study that handout if you are new to this kiln.

#### ***Cone Packs***

- For ^6 firing include ^08 reduction, ^3 early warning, ^5 warning, ^6 firing, ^7 guard.
- For ^10 firing include ^08 reduction, ^7 early warning, ^9 warning, ^10 firing, ^11 guard.

#### ***Overnight Preheat***

- Open master gas valves by fence and before LPG regulator, and **close all three burner valves**.
- Set regulator at 5 PSI (necessary so pilot flame will be strong enough not to blow out).
- Leave air shutters at the approximate 1/8" opening and do not change at any time during firing.
- Set damper at 1" – just push it in all the way and then back it out about 1"
- Light the pilot - make sure pilot assembly is pointing upwards and tip of assembly is no closer than two inches below tip of center burner.
- Light the three burners. Center burner will light from pilot, use propane torch to light outside burners. Turn up burner valve just enough so burner stays lit.
- After one hour, turn burner valves up slightly so burners produce a soft roar, set damper to give very slight back pressure at bottom spyhole. Check upper spyhole to ensure no reduction smell.

#### ***The Next Morning, or Without Overnight Preheat***

- If no overnight preheat, follow directions above and after an hour with burners at soft roar proceed.
- Increase regulator to 7.5 PSI and open burner valves all the way.
- Adjust damper to get very slight back pressure at bottom spyhole, but with no smell of reduction.

#### ***When Body Reduction Cone is Down*** (with overnight preheat happens within two hours after first turn-up)

- Turn the LPG regulator up to 10 PSI.
- Close damper slightly to produce wisp of flame at bottom spyhole to give partial-reduction atmosphere. No need for body reduction on salt/soda, but this will give most even firing and effective climb.
- Maintain similar flames throughout firing (except if you close down damper while charging).

#### ***When Early Warning Cone Starts to Bend***

- If top is hotter, open damper until flame at bottom spyhole disappears.
- If bottom is hotter, close damper to get 4-6" flame at bottom spyhole.

#### ***When Warning Cone Starts to Bend***

- Start charging if you want a heavy soda effect

#### ***When Warning Cone is Down and Firing Cone Starts to Bend***

- Start charging if you want a lighter soda effect.
- Pull a draw ring ever two to three charges.

#### ***Shutting Off the Kiln When Firing Cone is Down and At Least Fifteen Minutes After Final Charging***

- Close the damper all the way.
- Close the master valve to shut off the kiln.
- Unscrew the regulator handle until it turns loosely.
- Close all three burner valves.
- Leave the pilot valve where it is set.

#### ***After Two Hours***

- Open the damper all the way.
- There is no reason to cover the burner ports.