

MAFES Dawg Tracks



June 22, 2015



Propane Tank Safety Tips



According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), USA fire departments responded to an estimated 1,170 home structure fires involving LP gas during the period from 2003-2007. These fires resulted in 34 civilian deaths, 135 civilian injuries and \$48 million in direct property damage. Spark, ember, or flame was the leading heat source for these LP-gas home structure fires.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers developed the procedure of constructing propane or LP gas tanks from carbon steel. Propane tanks are 20 times more puncture proof than tanks filled with ethanol, methanol or gasoline.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PROPANE USE-

- ✓ Modification or alterations to your propane system should be handled by authorized personnel. Unauthorized tampering can cause a potentially dangerous situation.
- ✓ The easiest way to detect propane is by its very unpleasant odor. If the scent of propane is in the air, this could cause a potentially dangerous situation.
- ✓ Extinguish all open flames and immediately leave any area where propane fumes are present.
- ✓ Avoid touching electrical switches or appliances when a leak is suspected.
- ✓ In case of a leak, go to your propane system's storage vessel, open the tank hood and close the vapor service valve. Then, immediately contact a qualified technician for assistance.
- ✓ Electronic leak detectors are available. Contact your nearest propane retailer for the purchase of a detector.
- ✓ Propane is heavier than air. The vapor will descend to the lowest point, such as your basement. Avoid these areas when a leak is detected.
- ✓ Never tamper with safety devices, regulators or storage tanks fittings.
- ✓ Never use an open flame to test for propane leaks.
- ✓ Please have your propane system checked if you have any of the following systems of carbon monoxide poisoning: headaches, dizziness, loss of muscular control, vomiting and eyes watering.
- ✓ Prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning is listed in the following steps: Never use range burners as space heaters: Never use propane heaters that aren't intended for indoor use: Never use a propane Barb-B-Q grill inside.
- ✓ Have all propane appliances check regularly by a qualified technician.
- ✓ Always make sure that you have sufficient ventilation.

Carbon monoxide detectors are available at most hardware stores.

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt... / Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201 2/23/2015
Excerpts: http://www.peopaneffl.com/safety_tips.htm
<http://nfpa.org/safety-information>
National Safety Council

PROPANE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOME-

- Propane leaks smell like rotten eggs. Orient your family to recognize this smell.
- If you smell a leak, evacuate the premises, and contact your local fire department or propane supplier. When leaving the premises, do not alter the electrical outlets or light switches.
- Propane leak detectors are available at local hardware stores.
- Get familiar, if you aren't already, with your underground gas lines, especially if you're planning for landscaping or renovations.
- If you suspect that one of your appliances has been damaged by water or flooding, have a trained technician to come out and service your system.
- All furnaces should be serviced regularly. Check with your propane retailer and owner's manual for cleaning instructions.
- In case of a sediment buildup in your propane fueled water heater, drain the tank until the water runs clean.
- If your flames aren't blue, you need to have your range serviced. Yellow flames indicate a blockage in the air inlets, or an adjustment may be needed to the burner. Contact a service technician to check it. Do not line your range with foil; it constricts the air circulation.
- Never use a gas range or grill to heat your home.

SAFETY TIPS FOR OUTDOOR GRILLING-

- Never use a grill in an enclosed space. Always use a grill outdoors in a well-ventilated space. Do place the grill next to leaves, brush or the home. Always keep your gas cylinders in an upright position. Do not store your extra cylinder under or near the grill.
- Always follow the owner's manual when there is a doubt about its use and keep it accessible.
- Close the cylinder valve when it is not in use. Also, make sure all grill controls are in the off position.
- Refrain from attaching or disconnecting a cylinder or altering the cylinder fittings when the grill is in operation or is still hot.
- Do not cover your grill until all the controls are cut off and the grill is completely cooled down.
- Check the cylinders for dents, leaks and rust when you are having the cylinders refilled.
- Never leave a filled container enclosed in a vehicle. Keep your car well-ventilated when transporting cylinders.
- Refrain from smoking when handling gas cylinders.
- Keep flammable materials away from the grill or burners. Do not leave food cooking on the grill unattended.
- Keep children and pets away from the lighted grill.

**COOK WITH REASON DURING THIS
SUMMER SEASON**

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**ACCIDENTS HURT <><>> SAFETY DOESN'T!**