

# Suburban Safety Tips

**READ AND PROVIDE THIS IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION TO ALL END USERS!**

**Llame 1-888-223-0029 para información sobre los avisos de seguridad en español**

## WHAT IS PROPANE?

Propane (also called LPG-Liquefied Petroleum Gas or LP-Gas) is a liquid fuel stored under pressure. In most systems, propane is vaporized to a gas before it leaves the tank. Propane is highly flammable when mixed with air (oxygen) and can be ignited by many sources, including open flames, smoking materials, electrical sparks, and static electricity. Severe "freeze burn" or frostbite can result if propane liquid comes in contact with your skin.

## IF YOU SMELL, HEAR OR SEE GAS



1. **NO FLAMES OR SPARKS!** Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones, or cell phones. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or fire.



2. **LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY!** Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.



3. **SHUT OFF THE GAS.** Turn off the main gas supply valve on your propane tank if it is safe to do so. To close the valve, turn it to the right (clockwise).



4. **REPORT THE LEAK.** From a neighbor's home or other nearby building away from the gas leak, call your propane retailer right away. If you can't reach your propane retailer, call 911 or your local fire department.



5. **DO NOT RETURN TO THE BUILDING OR AREA** until your propane retailer determines that it is safe to do so.



6. **GET YOUR SYSTEM CHECKED.** Before you attempt to use any of your propane appliances, your propane retailer or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure it is leak-free.

## CAN YOU SMELL IT?



Propane smells like rotten eggs, a skunk's spray, or a dead animal. Some people may have difficulty smelling propane due to their age (older people have a less sensitive sense of smell); a medical condition; or the effects of medication, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. Consider purchasing a propane gas detector as an additional measure of security.

**ODOR FADE** is an unintended reduction in the concentration of the odor of propane, making it more difficult to smell. Although rare, several situations can cause odor fade:

- The presence of air, water, or rust in a propane tank or cylinder
- The passage of leaking propane through soil
- The exposure to building materials, masonry or fabrics



**Since there is a possibility of odor fade or problems with your sense of smell, you should respond immediately to even a faint odor of gas.**

To learn what propane smells like, Customers unfamiliar with that smell should call Suburban's Safety Information Request Center 1-888-223-0029 and order the pamphlets called "Important Propane Safety Information for You and Your Family" and/or an expansive "Propane Safety" booklet to obtain a Scratch and Sniff Test, free of charge. Pamphlets can also be purchased through Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) at 1-866-905-1075 or [www.propanecatalog.com](http://www.propanecatalog.com)

## PROPANE GAS DETECTORS ARE RECOMMENDED

Propane gas detectors sound an alarm if propane is detected in the air. Suburban recommends the installation of UL-listed propane gas detectors in basements and where recommended by the manufacturer to provide an additional warning of the presence of propane. They can provide an additional measure of security in structures with little-used areas and for individuals who have difficulty smelling propane.



**GUIDELINES** regarding propane gas detectors:

- Buy only units that are listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and maintenance.
- Never ignore the smell of propane, even if no detector is sounding an alarm.

## CARBON MONOXIDE AND YOUR SAFETY



**WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)?**

You can't taste or smell CO, but it is a very dangerous gas, produced when any fuel burns. High levels of CO can come from appliances that are not operating correctly, or from a venting system or chimney that becomes blocked.

**CO CAN BE DEADLY!** High levels of CO can make you dizzy or sick (see below). In extreme cases, CO can cause brain damage or death.

### Symptoms of CO poisoning include:

- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Fatigue

**IF YOU SUSPECT CO IS PRESENT, ACT IMMEDIATELY!**



1. If you or a family member shows physical symptoms of CO poisoning, get everyone out of the building and call 911 or your local fire department.
2. If it is safe to do so, open windows to allow entry of fresh air, and turn off any appliances you suspect may be releasing CO.
3. If no one has symptoms, but you suspect that CO is present, call your propane retailer or a qualified service technician to check CO levels and your propane equipment.



**TO HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF CO POISONING:**

- Have a qualified service technician check your propane system appliances and related venting systems annually, preferably before heating season begins.
- Install UL-listed CO detectors on every level of your home.
- Never use a gas oven or range-top burners to provide space heating.
- Never use portable heaters indoors unless they are designed and approved for indoor use.
- Never use a barbecue grill (propane or charcoal) indoors for cooking or heating.
- Regularly check your appliance exhaust vents for blockage.

**SIGNS OF IMPROPER APPLIANCE OPERATION THAT CAN GENERATE HIGH CO LEVELS:**

- Sooting, especially on appliances and vents.
- Unfamiliar or burning odor.
- Increased moisture inside of windows.

## LIGHTING PILOT LIGHTS



IF A PILOT LIGHT REPEATEDLY GOES OUT or is very difficult to light, there may be a safety problem. **DO NOT** try to fix the problem yourself. It is strongly recommended that only a **QUALIFIED SERVICE TECHNICIAN** light any pilot light that has gone out.

**YOU ARE TAKING THE RISK** of starting a fire or an explosion if you light a pilot light yourself. Carefully follow all of the manufacturer's instructions and warnings concerning the appliance before attempting to light the pilot.

## APPLIANCE AND SYSTEM MAINTENANCE



**LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS.** Only a qualified service technician has the training to install, connect, disconnect, inspect, service, maintain, and repair propane equipment and piping. Have your appliances and propane system inspected just before the start of each heating season.

**HELP YOUR APPLIANCES "BREATHE."** Check the vents of your appliances to be sure that flue gases can flow easily to the outdoors; clear away any insect or bird nests or other debris. Also, clear the area around your appliances so plenty of air can reach the burner for proper combustion.

**DO NOT TRY TO MODIFY OR REPAIR** valves, regulators, connectors, controls, or other appliance and cylinder/tank parts. Doing so creates the risk of a gas leak that can result in property damage, serious injury, or death.

**HAVE OLDER APPLIANCE CONNECTORS INSPECTED.** Certain older appliance connectors may crack or break, causing a gas leak. If you have an appliance that is more than 20 years old, have a qualified service technician inspect the connector. Do not do this yourself, as movement of the appliance might damage the connector and cause a leak.



**FLAMMABLE VAPORS ARE A SAFETY HAZARD.** The pilot light on your propane appliance can ignite vapors from gasoline, paint thinners, and other flammable liquids. Be sure to store flammable liquids outdoors or in an area of the building containing no propane appliances.



**DON'T RISK IT!** If you cannot operate any part of your propane system, or if you think an appliance or other device is not working right, call your propane retailer or qualified service technician for assistance.

## RUNNING OUT OF GAS

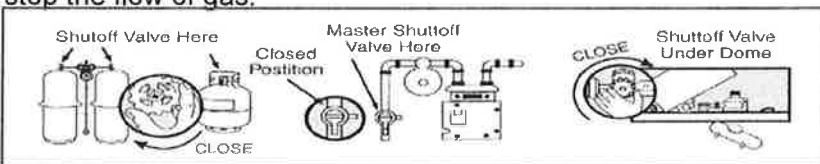
**DON'T RUN OUT OF GAS. SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARDS, INCLUDING FIRE OR EXPLOSION, CAN RESULT.**



- If an appliance valve or gas line is left open, a leak could occur when the system is recharged with propane.
- If your propane tank runs out of gas, any pilot lights on your appliances will go out. This can be extremely dangerous.
- **A LEAK CHECK IS REQUIRED.** In many states, a propane retailer or a qualified service technician must perform a leak check of your system before turning on the gas.

## EQUIPMENT AWARENESS

**KNOW HOW TO SHUT OFF YOUR GAS SUPPLY.** Know where the gas supply shutoff valve to your premises valve is located. Tank and cylinder valves must be turned to the right (in a clockwise direction) to stop the flow of gas.



**MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.** All new appliances sold by Suburban will come with an owner's manual and manufacturer's instructions. Keep and consult them for correct operating and maintenance procedures. Contact the appliance manufacturer for replacement instructions, if needed.

**KNOW WHERE UNDERGROUND GAS LINES AND TANKS ARE LOCATED** to avoid damaging them when digging or working on your premises.

**DO NOT STORE PROPANE CYLINDERS OR CONTAINERS INSIDE BUILDINGS.**

**MAKE SURE REGULATOR REMAINS PROTECTED** so operation will not be affected by the elements (rain, sleet, snow, ice, mud, debris). Regulator vent should be pointed down and be checked regularly.

**MAKE SURE BUILDING OPENINGS ARE NOT CREATED AND SOURCES OF IGNITION ARE NOT SITUATED WITHIN THE AREA OF PROPANE TANKS, REGULATORS, METERS AND OTHER PROPANE EQUIPMENT IN THE SYSTEM.**

**REVIEW MANUFACTURERS' WARNINGS AND IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [www.suburbanpropane.com](http://www.suburbanpropane.com) REGARDING CORRUGATED STAINLESS STEEL TUBING (CSST),** which is a flexible pipe used to supply gas in homes and buildings. A nearby lightning strike can create holes and/or damage CSST. This can result in a gas leak and potentially cause a fire or explosion. Proper grounding and bonding of CSST can reduce the risk of a fire or explosion. **MAKE SURE ALL PROPANE PIPING IS PROPERLY BONDED AND GROUNDED.** Contact a licensed electrician for more information.

## **BE PREPARED FOR WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCIES**

**FLOODING** – If a flood is predicted for your area or your gas-fired appliance(s) or equipment has been submerged due to flooding:

- **Turn off the gas** valve at the container or cylinder.
- **DO NOT** turn the gas back on until a qualified service technician has checked the system.

**HEAVY SNOW OR ICE** – Heavy accumulations of snow or ice falling from roof eaves on regulators, piping, tubing and valves may cause damage that could result in a gas leak. Regulator vents must remain clear of snow and ice to operate properly. Check the regulator vents on the propane system to be sure they are free of condensation, which if frozen, could cause a malfunction. If a regulator vent is clogged with ice or snow, contact Suburban Propane immediately. Appliance vents, chimneys and flues must be kept clear of snow and ice so appliances may vent properly, especially on roofs of mobile homes. For installations in areas of heavy snowfall, arrange for the protection of piping, regulators, meters and other equipment installed in the piping system from the forces of accumulated snow or ice. A protective cover or structure may be an appropriate form of protection in some circumstances, and is required in some jurisdictions. Contact your local building or fire official for guidance.

When removing snow:

- Use care around tanks, piping, tubing, valves, regulators and other equi
- Use a broom instead of a shovel.
- Do not shovel snow from roofs onto propane equipment. The weight could damage propane equipment causing a leak.

## **SAFE ACCESS**

Provide structurally sound access to propane equipment free from snow, ice, debris or other obstructions.

## **FURTHER CONSUMER SAFETY INFORMATION**

We urge you to visit [www.suburbanpropane.com](http://www.suburbanpropane.com) for Consumer Safety Information prepared by the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC). Pamphlets called "Important Propane Safety information for You and Your Family," "Important Propane Safety Information for Users of Small Cylinders" (including cylinder transportation, storage and inspection procedures), an expansive "Propane Safety" booklet, weather/natural disaster information, and Suburban's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) may be read and downloaded online. These documents are also available free of charge by calling Suburban at 1-888-223-0029 or PERC pamphlets containing a Scratch and Sniff Test of propane odor can be purchased at 1-866-905-1075 or [www.propanecatalog.com](http://www.propanecatalog.com).