



KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926

CDS@CO.KITTITAS.WA.US

Office (509) 962-7506

Fax (509) 962-7682

Propane Safety

If your home has a propane furnace, water heater, range or other appliances, you should schedule a yearly inspection of your whole propane system. A qualified service person or gas supplier can provide a trained service technician to inspect your system for leaks and ensure all applicable safety standards are met. The technician can also inspect your tank, piping, regulators, gauges, connectors, valves, vents, thermostats, pilots, burners and appliance controls to make sure they are in good working condition.

Homeowner Maintenance

In Case of Snow

Heavy snow and ice should be removed from regulators, regulator vents, piping, tubing and valves. Failure to do so can cause damage that could result in a gas leak. Appliance vents, chimneys and flues must be kept clear of snow and ice to allow proper venting. Snow and ice should be removed from walkways and tank area so that propane company personnel have ready access to your tank.

- Use a broom instead of a shovel when clearing snow off the tank or around the exposed piping, regulator, gauges or tubing.
- When clearing the roof, avoid shoveling snow onto exposed piping around the propane regulator near the building or onto the propane tank and piping, as well as any meters or other piping that may be in use.
- Check regulator vents on the propane system to be sure they are free of snow, ice or water that could freeze. (A two-stage system has a regulator on the tank and at the entrance of the propane piping to the building; a single regulator is on the tank.) If a regulator vent is clogged with ice or snow, contact your propane supplier immediately.
- Check all gas appliance exhaust and combustion air vents, such as dryer or furnace vents, to be sure they are kept clear of snow and ice.

Before a snow storm occurs:

- In areas where heavy snows are expected, cover the regulator, relief valves, and fill valves with a protective cap or "dome." This dome will keep out snow, ice, or rain which might clog the regulator if it freezes. In systems using more than one regulator, or

where the cover is not in place, make certain the exposed regulator vent is in the downward position to keep out moisture.

- Prior to heavy snow storms, mark the location of the propane tank and other equipment with snow stakes which should extend well above the maximum anticipated snow depth. Consumers whose tanks and piping are not presently marked should mark them now.

Ventilation

Because of the threat of explosion or carbon monoxide build up due to an improperly vented appliance, the venting system should be inspected on a periodic basis. An annual inspection is recommended in the late summer or early fall.

Propane System Checklist

1. Smell for propane odor.
2. Check cylinders and tanks for exterior rust, dents, and last fill date.
3. Check that disconnected cylinders are plugged and piping is capped.
4. Check the liquid level gauge on the tank or cylinder if so equipped. Refill per recommended guidelines.
5. Ensure appliances are properly vented.
6. Check appliances for rusty or water damaged gas control valves.
7. Regulators:
 - Ensure vent is pointed downward to prevent blockage from ice
 - Ensure vent is not blocked by insects, mud-daubers, wasp nests, spider cocoons, etc.
 - Ensure connector is protected from scratches or dents
8. Cylinders:
 - Always stored outdoors or in an open area in an upright position
 - Have shutoff valves firmly closed when the appliance is not being used
 - Are away from a stove or fireplace
 - In a secure position
 - Always used with a regulator

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR A PROPANE LEAK

If you smell gas in your house, workplace or around any gas equipment or appliance, follow the emergency procedure below:

1. Put out all smoking materials and other open flames.

- Do NOT operate electric switches.
- Do NOT light matches.
- Do NOT use your phone.

Any spark in the area where propane gas is present may ignite the gas. This could include the spark of a light switch, telephone, fan, refrigerator motor, or even static electricity from walking across a room.

2. IMMEDIATELY EVACUATE the structure or area.

3. Close all gas tank or cylinder supply valves.

4. Call 9-1-1 from *outside* the house.

5. Do NOT re-enter the building or area until a trained service person advises it is safe to return.

6. Have a trained propane service person:

- pressure check the system
- repair the leak
- turn on the gas
- check all the gas appliances, and
- re-light the pilots on the appliances.

7. Re-enter the area only when the service person and firefighters say it is safe.