

TOOLBOX TALK

DISCUSS WITH CREWS

mm/dd/yyyy

PROPANE SAFETY

Topic Overview

Propane gas is heavier than air. If it leaks from equipment or containers, it can accumulate in low-lying areas, such as basements, pits, and trenches. The dangers from a leak are explosion and asphyxiation.

Asphyxiation means loss of consciousness and suffocation which could result in death. Propane gas is odourless, but suppliers add a strong-smelling chemical to the gas so that leaks can be detected by smell. The unpleasant odour is like rotten cabbage. If enough propane gas collects in a low-lying area, it displaces air. Upon entering the area, you may be overcome and lose consciousness.

Propane is combustible and explosive. Concentrations in a basement or trench can be ignited by something as simple as turning on a light switch, starting an electric drill or generating a static spark.

Hazards to be aware of

If propane equipment, such as a torch or heater, goes out in a confined or low-lying space, act quickly:

- Shut off the gas and leave the area.
- Don't go back to relight the equipment until the area has been thoroughly ventilated to remove the gas.
- Never enter the area without somebody standing by to help in case you run into trouble.
- Don't let propane saturate your clothing. Clothing remains highly flammable for some time after exposure. Even if it doesn't feel or smell unusual, saturated clothing should be removed and aired outside.
- Pay attention to the expiry date on propane tanks because using an expired tank can be dangerous. Over time, propane tanks can develop leaks, cracks, or other damage that can compromise their structural integrity and cause propane to escape. This can create a fire or explosion hazard.



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Safety Tips

- To prevent leaks, propane (compressed gas) containers and equipment should be handled properly.
- Compressed gas containers must be recertified by hydrostatic test at least every 10 years.
- Always keep compressed gas containers secured and upright, whether you're transporting, using, or storing them.
- Compressed gas containers that are being used should be secured with rope, wire, or chain to keep them upright.
- Never roll compressed gas containers like logs or hoist them by their collars. Use a hoisting cradle to lift or lower compressed gas containers from level to level. Never use a sling or lifting magnet.
- Store compressed gas containers where they won't be struck by falling materials or moving equipment. With snow fencing and T-bars, it is possible to make an enclosure for storing and tying up containers. Store empty containers on one side, and full ones on the other — never mix them.
- Compressed gas containers should not be dragged, slid, or subjected to rough handling.
- Keep compressed gas containers at a safe distance from readily-ignited substances, including the heaters they are connected to and any other operations that produce flames, sparks or molten metal.
- Never expose any part of your skin to compressed gases, as they are extremely cold and can cause frostbite.



Transporting

- Disconnect cylinders and plug or cap all outlets before you go.
- Always carry the cylinder in an upright position with the safety valve on top.
- Never transport compressed gas containers in the trunk of a car or in a closed van. Escaping gas can collect in these confined spaces and create a risk of explosion or asphyxiation.
- Never leave a cylinder in a parked vehicle with the windows up. Heat builds up quickly and could cause an explosive release of propane in the vehicle.
- Secure the cylinder in the upright position so it cannot tip over while you are driving.
- Do not transport or use propane containers that are damaged, show signs of corrosion, have been exposed to fire, or appear to be leaking.

TOOLBOX TALK

LOCATION		DATE	
PRESENTED BY		TIME	

Review previous Workplace Inspections

Review previous Accident/Incident/Near Misses

Other Safety Issues or Suggestions made by Staff

Attendance Record

NAME	SIGNATURE	NAME	SIGNATURE

TOOLBOX MEETING REVIEWED	NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	DATE
MANAGEMENT REP			
WORKER REP			