



## Propane Safety and Wildfires

### Steps to keep you and your family safe

Wildfires can spread quickly and destroy or damage homes and property. If your home or business uses propane to generate heat or run appliances, there are a few simple steps you can take to keep your family safe and avoid potential dangers.

- **Clear at least a 10-foot area around your propane tank and gas grill of any debris.** Remove anything that is combustible or easily ignited, including leaves, brush, vegetation, and rags. Make sure the grill and all propane cylinders are at least 10 feet from any structure.
- **Never store, place, or use a propane cylinder indoors or in an enclosed area** such as a basement, garage, shed, or tent.
- **Create an emergency preparedness plan and review it with everyone in your family.** Post a list with contact information for your propane retailer and emergency services along with instructions for turning off propane, electricity, and water.
- **If a wildfire threatens your safety, you should shut off the gas.** Turn off the main gas supply valve on your propane tank, if it is safe to do so. Also turn off the gas supply valves located near individual indoor appliances. If you have a propane fireplace or log set, close any screen, door, or damper.
- **After the wildfire danger has passed, take the time to carefully evaluate the condition of all the structures on your property.** If it is dark, use flashlights, not candles. Check for downed power lines. Inspect your gas lines and tank for damage. Inspect chimneys, flue pipes, and vent connectors for damage, blockage, or debris. Immediately call your local utility company or propane retailer if any of these hazards are observed.
- **Never use outdoor propane appliances indoors or in enclosed areas.** This can result in carbon monoxide poisoning or death. These include such appliances as outdoor portable heaters, barbecue grills, and portable generators. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for indoor use.
- **Have a qualified service technician perform a complete inspection of your propane system** if you suspect any of your propane appliances, equipment, or vehicles have been damaged, or you have turned off your gas supply. Never use or operate appliances, equipment, or vehicles, or turn on the gas supply, until your system has been inspected by a qualified service technician.
- **Exercise sound judgment.** Stay calm; use radios, television, and telephones to stay informed and connected. Remember, wildfires can last several days and roads may be inaccessible for fuel delivery or emergency services.
- **Take immediate action if you smell gas inside or outside of your home or business.** Follow these simple instructions:
  1. **No flames or sparks!** Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate or turn on or off lights, appliances, telephones, or cell phones.
  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 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, emergency responder, or qualified service technician 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 that it is leak-free.

*For additional information on preparing for wildfires, other natural disasters, and severe weather conditions, visit [usepropane.com](http://usepropane.com) or contact your propane retailer.*