

Minimizing Propane Accidents and Injuries

Creating a written maintenance checklist and training employees on a single set of emergency procedures can ensure everyone in the organization knows how to prevent propane leaks and handle an emergency.

Maintenance checklist

- Inspect valves and other fittings

- Perform a pressure check

- Check for hissing sounds

- Clear away any ice, leaves, or other debris near your propane tank, and ensure it's in a shaded, well-ventilated area

- Regularly check the gauge and keep propane levels between 20% and 80%

- Inspect the tank and connections for any signs of damage, corrosion, rust, or shifting

- Check for ethyl mercaptan – it should smell like rotten eggs

- Schedule a professional inspection every five years

- Make sure to get all propane cylinders recertified every five or ten years (depending on the type of cylinder and its condition)

Emergency procedures checklist

- Keep an emergency kit easily accessible

- Call emergency responders

- Get everyone outside and at least 350 feet away from the source of the leak

- Avoid using phones, lights, or anything that might produce a spark

- If it's safe, remove any ignition sources, such as electronics

- If it's safe, turn off the propane valve

