

## Use propane safely by taking precautions. . .

Propane is a safe, dependable, economical and trouble free fuel. Through constant vigilance and safe practices incorporated into Chandler Co-op's daily operations, the Co-op has acquired a reputation for providing propane service in a safe manner.

Propane is neither toxic nor poisonous. Tests show that concentration of 25% propane mixes with air produces no ill effects. **However**, if propane displaces the air in an enclosed space, suffocation can occur because of the lack of oxygen. An **explosive atmosphere** can exist when a propane concentration is between 2% and 10% by volume of the atmosphere. This is known as the **explosive range**, which can be determined with proper propane detection equipment. **Chandler Co-op** has the equipment and properly trained personnel to assist when you suspect a leak.



### Learn to recognize a propane gas leak

It is important for you to know how to recognize potentially dangerous propane gas leaks, so use your senses:

1. **Smell:** Because propane has harmless odorant called ethyl-Many people describe the odor or sulfur, but it may smell smell from an unknown source.



no odor in its natural state, we add a mercaptan to it to help you detect a leak. of ethyl-mercaptan similar to rotten eggs differently to you. It may also be a strong

2. **Hear:** A propane leak may produce a noise that ranges from next to nothing to a slight hissing or blowing sound to a loud roar.



Under some circumstances, you might not smell a gas leak. Propane gas detectors are designed to sound an alarm if they sense propane, even if the odorant cannot be detected. It is recommended that you consider installing one or more gas detectors listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in your home. Detectors can provide an extra measure of safety.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and use.

If a detector is sounding an alarm, treat it as an emergency and act immediately, even if you do not smell propane. Never ignore the smell of propane, even if no detector is sounding an alarm.



3. **See:** A leak also may cause dust, dirt or debris to fly, or create continuous bubbling movement in water. It also can cause a discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area.



blowing or spot of dead or

### How to respond to a suspected propane gas leak

If you suspect a gas leak, get everyone out of the building or area **IMMEDIATELY**, move a safe distance away, and then call for help. **Because an electric spark can ignite an explosion, remember to follow these tips:**

- **Do not** turn on or turn off electrical switches.

- **Avoid** using electric appliances such as garage door openers or telephones of any type.
- **Do not** start up or shut down motor vehicles or any other electrical equipment.
- **Do not** strike a match.
- **Avoid** open flames or other ignition sources.
- **Move to** a location a safe distance away from your home or building when the odor is outdoors.
- **Call** Chandler Co-op at **1-507-836-6185** or **9-1-1** in an emergency.
- **Stay away** until Chandler Co-op or the emergency responders have told you it is safe to return.

## **Safety 1st**

Chandler Co-op has a safety program that includes, among other things; leak detection and repair. Such programs are part of our daily operational activities. Among the methods of leak detection are; periodic surveys of vegetation, testing in bar holes and other openings in the pavement, mobile surveys with electronically equipped test units; and testing of exposed pipe and fittings with leak detectors. These programs, coupled with safe practices, around the clock emergency service and quick electronic communications, have been instrumental in the safe deliver and utilization of this fuel.

## **Procedures during emergencies**

At the first indication that propane is involved, call Chandler Co-op at **1-507-836-6185** or **9-1-1**. Our service personnel are instructed to report their presence upon arrival at the emergency location.

### ***When propane is escaping outside a building***

Propane is heavier than air and will diffuse rapidly when it escapes in an open area. Propane can also migrate below ground and enter buildings through basement floors and walls or where utilities enter the building.

If propane is escaping from the ground, an excavation, an open pipe, manhole or sewer, clear a safe area around the location and barricade or rope it off. Extinguish all open flames, prohibit smoking, and make certain that electrical switches or other possible ignition sources are not operated. Check surrounding buildings, basements in particular, for any presence of propane odor. It may be necessary to restrict or reroute all traffic until our employees brings the propane flow under control.

### ***When propane is burning out-of-doors***

If Propane is burning outside; make no attempt to extinguish the fire unless life is in jeopardy. Burning propane will not explode, but it may ignite surrounding combustibles. Clear the area and rope and barricade it. Never operate an underground valve. Turning the wrong valve could further endanger life or property. Spray water mist on surrounding combustibles if they are in danger of igniting. If it is necessary to extinguish a fire because a life is in jeopardy, use dry chemical and water-fogging equipment. Do not use water on burning propane as its point of escape. If this point is in an excavation, the hole may become filled with mud making the repair slower and more hazardous.



## When escaping propane is suspected or found in a building

Propane is heavier than air. When confined in a closed room, the propane may migrate to the lowest level of the room. When escaping propane is found in buildings, clear the building of all occupants. If safe to do so, shut off the gas where it enters the building. This is usually at the meter. Do not turn electrical switches on or off.

## When escaping propane is burning in a building

If propane is burning inside a building and it is safe to do so, shut off the propane at the meter or, where available, at an outside valve. The person in charge should determine if the propane can be shut off at the service entrance inside the building, at the regulator (in pressure systems) or at the meter, depending on the type of installation. The best procedure is to rely on Chandler Co-op to help evaluate the situation and take necessary actions. If the propane supply cannot be safely shut off, keep surrounding combustibles wet by spraying until the Chandler Co-op emergency personnel can control the flowing propane. If a fire is caused by a gas appliance that is burning out of control, it is usually enough to shut off the propane at the appliance's valve. When this is not practical, or the valve cannot be located, shut off the propane at the meter.

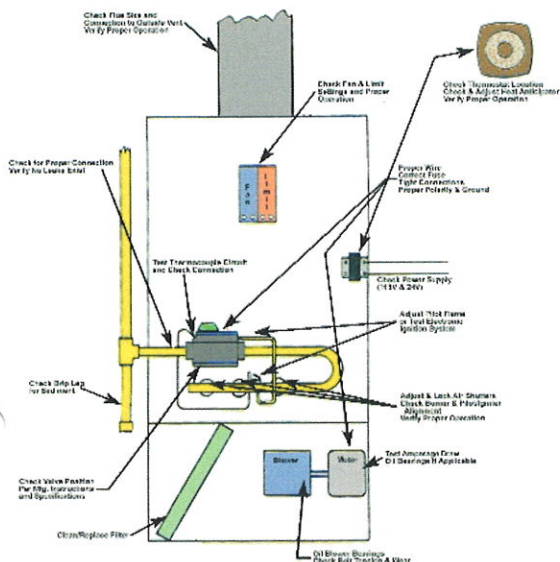
## Propane in manholes and sewers

**Notify Chandler Co-op immediately.** Chandler Co-op personnel can assist in the identification and source of the type of gas involved; they can distinguish between propane, gasoline vapors, sewer gas and cable-burnout gases. Do not attempt to extinguish flames if propane becomes ignited, unless life is in jeopardy. Spray any burning or combustible material in the area. Rope off or barricade a safe area around the location. Keep bystanders away and prohibit smoking. Never enter a manhole or sewer if gases or vapors are even suspected to be present. Always have the atmosphere of a manhole or sewer checked with a gas detector and oxygen-deficiency detector before anyone enters.

## Know what's below. Call before you dig

Prevent potentially dangerous propane gas conditions by calling before you dig to avoid digging into or nicking a buried gas line. One free, easy call to **8-1-1** gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from unnecessary injury or expense.

## Appliance maintenance



It also is a wise and effective safety measure to maintain gas appliances properly and **hire a qualified contractor** to routinely inspect them to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Minnesota Statutes 299F.50 requires carbon monoxide detectors in every single or multi-family home near sleeping areas. It is recommended that you consider installing carbon monoxide detectors in public buildings as well. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and use.

