

GUIDELINE 5. PROPANE LEAK OR FIRE EMERGENCY

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1** Common safety practices to follow in the event of a propane leak or fire.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Propane** – a liquefied, compressed gas which will produce flammable gas that will easily ignite when exposed to an ignition source. It is also heavier than air and will collect in low lying areas that are not properly ventilated.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1** Anyone who is operating in or around a propane fueled vehicle, propane tank filling station, or propane cylinder.

4.0 PROCEDURES

4.1 IN THE CASE OF A PROPANE LEAK

- 4.1.1** Immediately remove possible ignitions sources. This includes electronics, flashlights, cigarettes, and shutting off nearby vehicles and equipment.
- 4.1.2** If safe to do so, turn off the source of the propane to stop the flow of the leak.
- 4.1.3** Evacuate the area immediately. Remove everyone to a safe distance of at least 350 feet in all directions of the leak. Evacuate upwind if possible. If indoors, evacuate the building.
- 4.1.4** Report the leak. If calling from a University of Pennsylvania phone, call 511. If calling from a cell phone or non-Penn phone call 911 and PennComm 215-573-3333.
- 4.1.5** Do not return to the area until told to do so.

4.2 IN CASE OF PROPANE LEAK WITH FIRE

- 4.2.1** Evacuate the area immediately. Remove everyone to a safe distance. If indoors evacuate the building and do not try to extinguish the fire.
- 4.2.2** If gas valve is located at a safe distance, shut the valve to stop the flow of propane.
- 4.2.3** Report the fire. If calling from a University of Pennsylvania phone, call 511. If calling from a cell phone or non-Penn phone call 911 and PennComm 215-573-3333.
- 4.2.4** Do not return to the area until told to do so.

5.0 GENERAL REFERENCES

- 5.1** Philadelphia Fire Code, Chapter 38
- 5.2** 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook

6.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

- 6.1** For question regarding this guideline contact Fire and Emergency Services at (215) 573-7857 or FES@publicsafety.upenn.edu