

# Gas Safety Guidance



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**Document Family**

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## Purpose

Most Woodcraft Folk groups make use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), e.g. propane and butane, when cooking at camp. The following advice and guidance has been prepared to ensure safe use of LPG and associated equipment at camp.

## Gas Safety on Camp

Under Gas Safety Regulations (No. 34), changing LPG cylinders is not considered to be work, but is a task that should be carried out by a competent individual.

No alterations or repairs to any appliances or pipework should be carried out by anyone other than a Gas Safe registered competent person.

Gas appliances (e.g. burner rings, water urns) kept for use at camp should never be used inside a building, such as your group night venue.

*If in doubt don't use it!*

## Siting LPG Cylinders

- Gas cylinders in use should be sited in the open air, and not inside marquees
- All cylinders should be positioned in the upright position on firm, level hard standing
- Consideration should be given to securing the cylinders from toppling over e.g. a temporary post driven into the ground could be used to provide support

- A physical barrier protecting the space around the cylinders should be considered e.g. wind break or barrier fencing
- Signs should be displayed bearing the wording “Extremely flammable LPG - No smoking, no naked light” - the use of pictorial warning graphics as an alternative is permissible
- Rubbish, cardboard or other flammable material must not be stored adjacent to LPG cylinders

## Connecting LPG Cylinders

- Gas taps should be turned off when not in use
- Gas appliances and cylinders should only be connected and changed by a competent person
- Only connect one gas appliance to a cylinder - do not use splitters etc.
- First check that your gas appliance is in good working order
- Flexible hoses should comply with British Standard BS 3212 (type 2)
- Hoses have a 5 year life expectancy, and will have the date of manufacture printed on them. Do not use a hose that is more than five years old.
- Hoses should be replaced every two years - write the date the hose was first connected to the regulator clearly in permanent ink on the hose
- Hoses should be attached using factory-made clips or jubilee/crimp type clips
- Hoses should be regularly checked for wear and cracking and replaced if required
- Don't over-tighten joints
- Hoses should not be routed under temporary flooring
- Each time the hose is connected to a cylinder it should be leak tested by brushing with a soap/washing up liquid solution - the connection between the cylinder and regulator should also be checked
- Always take a spare hose to camp – just in case
- When you have finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before you turn off the gas appliance – this means any gas in the pipeline will be used up

## Fire Safety

- A minimum requirement of one 5kg Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher should be installed for each two LPG cylinders connected to an appliance
- Fire extinguishers should be adjacent to both gas appliances and gas cylinders (both inside and outside your marquee/kitchen tent)
- Keep gas appliance away from the sides of your tent or anything that can burn, e.g. tea towels

## Gas Leakage

- LPG has an unpleasant smell to aid detection of accidental gas escapes - in the event of a gas escape or strong smell of gas, turn the cylinder off and turn off all gas appliances

- Evacuate the area, and carry out leak tests using a soap solution
- *Never* use a naked flame to find a leak

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness
- Adequate ventilation is essential to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning - never use a gas appliance in a tent less than 4m<sup>2</sup>

## Record Keeping

Keep a log of the following:

- Who in your group is competent to connect gas appliances to LPG cylinders
- Maintenance carried out on gas appliances
- Dates when hoses were last replaced

## See Also

- [Transporting Gas Cylinders](#)
- [Storing Gas Cylinders](#)
- [Connecting Gas Cylinders](#)
- [Gas Safe Register](#)