

# Tully Hose Co. #1

Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Propane Gas Emergencies**  
Guideline # TF-316 – Rev.1

**Purpose:** To establish a guideline for responding to a propane gas emergency.

**General:** Propane gas is colorless and odorless. The propane company adds an odorant (ethyl mercaptan) so personnel can smell the propane in the event of a leak. Propane gas is heavier than air and will migrate to lowest points (i.e. basements, crawls spaces). A gallon of liquid propane weighs 4.24 pounds and contains 91,650 BTU's and will vaporize at any temperature above -44 degrees Fahrenheit.

## **DISPATCH:**

Upon receiving an alarm, a full first alarm assignment will respond to the scene for investigation. All firefighters must be in full personnel protective equipment including SCBA's.

## **ON SCENE:**

All responding apparatus will approach the area with caution. The Incident Command System will be initiated. The Incident Commander will determine the nature of the leak, set up perimeters (hot, warm, and cold) and request the required services if not already enroute (propane provider, Haz-Mat, EMS).

### **Escaping Propane Outside of a Structure**

- A. Eliminate ignition sources.
- B. Restrict access to the area.
- C. Determine if the leak can be isolated and, if possible, isolate.
- D. Call Propane Provider if possible.

### **Escaping Propane Inside of a Structure**

- A. Eliminate ignition sources.
- B. Restrict access to the area.
- C. Shut off the propane flow at the storage tank vapor service shutoff valve outside the structure or to the affected area of the structure (i.e.: stove, boiler, water heater, etc.)
- D. Natural ventilation is to be setup.
- E. At minimum, a 3/4 safety line shall be in place.
- F. Check structure for propane levels by using a meter after the leak has been secured.

**Burning Propane Outside of a Structure**

- A. Protect exposures and recognize the high radiant heat hazards.
- B. If possible, attempt to secure the propane gas leak by utilizing the storage tank vapor service shutoff valve.
- C. Call propane provider if possible.

**Burning Gas Inside of a Structure**

- A. Shut off the flow of propane at the storage tank vapor service shutoff valve outside the structure.
- B. Protect the exposures.
- C. Extinguish the remaining fire.
- D. Call the Fire Inspector to the scene.

Once the scene has been secured, the Incident Commander will notify the residents or occupants of the status of the structure and affected areas.