



National **PROPANE GAS** Association

1150 17th St NW • Suite 310 • Washington, DC 20036 • 202.466.7200 • Fax 202.466.7205

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
September 7, 2004

For more information, contact:
Susan Spear, Vice President,
Education and Training
630-769-1987
sspear@npga.org

A Storm Strikes: Safety Tips for Propane Consumers Affected by Storm or Flood Disasters

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- For those homeowners and businesses in the path of this season's hurricanes who depend on propane gas to heat their water or homes, cook their meals, or fuel their farm equipment and buildings, the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) has issued the following "before and after" safety recommendations.

Before the storm or flood:

- If you have to evacuate to higher ground, turn off the service valve on the propane portable cylinder or permanent tank and the shutoff valve on all propane appliances. (Be sure to check first with your propane supplier if you don't know where the shutoff valves are located.) The permanent tank's service valve should be left off until the system and appliances have been checked by a qualified service person.
- To secure propane equipment, tanks and cylinders (including grill cylinders) in a severe flood or high-wind condition, tie them to strongly secured stationary objects. Grill cylinders should be taken outside and secured to a strong stationary object. Wire cable instead of rope is recommended.

After the storm or flood:

- Propane-powered household appliances, farm equipment or vehicles with controls or regulators that have been underwater should be inspected by your propane supplier before being put back into service. Since water damage to propane equipment and

appliances is not always readily apparent, NPGA highly recommends a complete inspection of the entire system before attempting to operate equipment.

- The number one problem created by flooding is water damage of regulators and controls. Such damage can cause blockage, corrosion or other malfunction of the key safety devices that are built into the system. In addition, dirt or debris may have entered the regulator through the vent. While this is not an immediate threat, selected parts may need to be replaced to ensure the long-range safety of the equipment. Propane suppliers can also determine whether dents to the container or piping caused by flowing debris are serious enough to warrant equipment replacement.
- If your propane equipment has been flooded, be sure to shut off the service valve at the propane tank if you didn't do so before evacuating the property. This can be done by turning the valve in a clockwise direction. Be sure to have the system and appliances checked prior to turning on the gas supply.
- In the rare cases when people smell gas upon returning to their home, business or farm, they should extinguish all smoking materials and open flames. Exit the building immediately. Do not touch electrical switches, light matches or use the phone. Turn off the gas valve on the outside tank, meter or service area. Telephone your propane supplier and/or the fire department from a neighbor's phone. Do not re-enter until the building has been inspected.

While flooding or wind-damage present challenges, following these recommendations will keep your family safe when using propane gas.

The National Propane Gas Association is the national trade association of the propane industry. NPGA represents approximately 3,500 companies, including producers, wholesalers, transporters, and retailers of propane gas as well as the manufacturers and distributors of associated propane equipment and appliances.

60 million Americans choose propane as their energy source. For more information about NPGA and the propane gas industry, visit NPGA on the Internet at www.npga.org.

###