



## Propane in Your Community





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## **PROPANE – A VERSATILE AND RELIABLE FUEL**

Nearly 60 million Americans safely use and rely on propane. Propane heats homes, water, outdoor spaces, and many schools in rural areas. It cooks hot meals and provides clean and comforting fireplaces. It fuels grills for backyard barbecues. On farms, propane controls pests and weeds, dries crops, and powers irrigation systems. In factories and warehouses, propane powers the forklifts and construction equipment that keep our economy moving.

Propane helps to fuel the buses that drive our children to school and the fleets that provide goods and services to our communities. Propane emits fewer greenhouse gases than gasoline- or diesel-fueled engines, which helps to reduce the pollution in the air we breathe.

Propane is a non-toxic gas produced from natural gas processing and crude oil refining. It's also American-made. About 90 percent of U.S. propane supplies are produced at facilities in our country, making propane a secure and reliable energy resource.

## SAFETY IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY

Propane is a safe fuel when properly stored, transported, handled, and used. That safety comes from a combination of stringent codes and regulations, and the industry's extensive education, training, and safety-awareness programs. Safety is the industry's highest priority.

### Training Our Workforce

Thousands of men and women work in the propane industry every day. We are committed to providing our workers the most up-to-date training and information to keep them – and their customers and communities – safe.

As part of this commitment, the Certified Employee Training Program was established. Since its development in 1988, the Certified Employee Training Program has been assuring that the industry's workers have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

Before any employee begins working at a propane storage facility, he/she is trained on all aspects of the safe handling of propane and plant safety. Training programs are updated and refreshed frequently to ensure that employees are equipped with the most current safety procedures and information available.

The propane industry continues to support, build, and enhance these programs to ensure our workers stay safe, knowledgeable, and prepared in the field.

### Supporting Our Local Firefighters and Emergency Responders

Ensuring that our local firefighters and other emergency responders have the tools and training to do their jobs safely and effectively is a goal of the propane industry.

The Propane Emergencies program is a comprehensive training program for firefighters and emergency responders that is used by 35 state firefighter training academies. With more than 200,000 firefighters trained, the Propane Emergencies program continues to be the benchmark by which many other safety training programs are measured.

This collaborative effort means that more emergency responders are kept safe, knowledgeable, and better equipped to avoid propane-related injuries. The propane industry will continue to support these brave individuals with top-notch training and education to ensure their safety in the future.



**“ The propane industry’s commitment to the safety and health of our nation’s emergency response community is very strong. In fact, the Propane Emergencies program, which has trained our firefighters on safely responding to a propane incident, serves as a model program for other industries to follow.”**

Glen Rudner  
Hazardous Materials Officer  
Virginia Department of Emergency Management

## A REGULATED INDUSTRY WITH AN EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORD

### Propane Storage Facilities Help Get Propane to Consumers

The U.S. propane industry has created a vast distribution network to get propane to consumers in all 50 states. Department of Transportation regulations and other codes and standards provide for the safe storage and transport of propane on our highways, railroads, and waterways.

Propane storage facilities are known in the propane industry as “bulk plants.” There are approximately 13,500 of these facilities. Each bulk plant is different. However, there is equipment common to every plant:

1. Bulk storage tanks – the size will vary to meet the needs of customers.
2. Unloading stations – to unload transport trucks or railroad tank cars.
3. Filling stations – to fill cylinders or to fill delivery trucks.

Bulk propane storage tanks are constructed of steel in accordance with several codes and standards. They are installed on a firm foundation and are protected to prevent tampering.

### Propane Storage Facilities Have an Excellent Safety Record

Propane storage facilities have an excellent safety record. This safety record is the result of rigorous employee training and the implementation of numerous, industry-recommended practices and procedures. State and federal regulations and standards also help to keep propane storage facilities as safe as possible.

In an effort to identify the level of risk a propane installation poses to the general public, the U.S. Department of Energy instituted a study in 1981. The study concluded that the risk of a fatality to the general public resulting from a propane transportation or storage incident is actually smaller than the likelihood of death by a lightning strike or a tornado.

Additionally, Texas A&M University completed a study in 2006 that examined propane-related accidents in the U.S. The study concluded that very few incidents and no fatalities occurred at propane storage and distribution facilities during the nine-year study period.

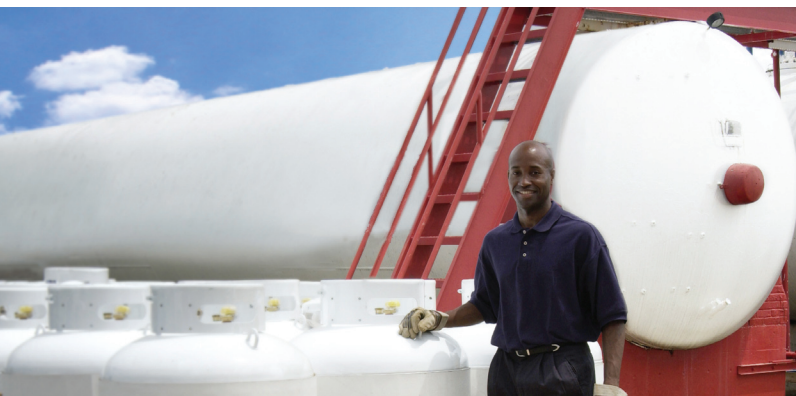
### Careful Preparation and Planning to Ensure Safety

Every propane storage facility is required to have an emergency system that, when activated, immediately stops the flow of propane. This is one of the many safety features that helps to ensure the safety of the general public, as well as employees and emergency responders.

Many new propane storage facility installations are required to prepare fire safety plans. In general, fire safety plans are prepared to provide information and establish procedures to help ensure the safety of the public, employees, and emergency responders.

Emergency action, response, and plant security plans may also be developed for a new propane storage facility installation. Training, communication, and emergency procedures are often established.

The type and content of plans that a new propane storage facility submits vary depending on local and state requirements. Often, propane companies work closely with state or local fire authorities in the preparation of these plans.



Every propane storage facility is required to have an emergency system that immediately stops the flow of propane. This is one of the many safety features that helps to ensure the safety of the general public, employees, and emergency responders.



Propane companies are part of the community too. We strive to be responsible stewards of the community and the environment.

## A GOOD NEIGHBOR FOR YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Propane storage facilities are neat, clean, and visually superior to many industrial installations. They also do not emit odors under normal operation and do not produce a significant amount of noise compared to other industries.

Propane is non-toxic, which means it produces no pollutants, either below or above ground. Approximately 17 million gallons of gasoline are spilled each year when refilling outdoor power equipment alone, which may contaminate soil and groundwater. By contrast, any propane that would leak quickly dissipates in the air. Propane facilities do not disturb the natural environment.

### Propane Facilities Provide Economic Benefits to the Community

Many propane storage facilities are locally owned, family-operated businesses that provide propane to various customers in the area. A new propane storage facility provides the community with several benefits that meet local economic and community goals.

#### Benefits include:

- New jobs that will be filled locally
- Enhancement of community's tax base
- Provides basic goods and services to local residents and keeps these expenditures within the community
- Enhanced business activity and economic development
- Safe, dependable, and efficient energy source

### We Are Part of the Community

Propane companies are part of the community too. We live and work here. We strive to be responsible stewards of the community and the environment. It is important that we continue to work with residents, community leaders, firefighters, and other authorities in an upfront and responsible manner to address any safety issues or concerns regarding the use of propane.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Will a propane facility affect my home's value?**

**A:** New propane facilities placed in areas that are zoned for commercial or industrial installations will have an affect on property values comparable to an industrial facility located in the same area.

**Q: Is a propane facility harmful to the environment?**

**A:** Propane is non-toxic. It will dissipate in the air if spilled. Propane does not adversely affect groundwater or soil.

**Q: Will adjacent property owners be bothered by odors?**

**A:** The normal operation of a propane storage facility does not produce odors that affect nearby residents. On very rare occasions, adjacent property owners may sense the slight smell of the odorant used in propane.

**Q: Is a propane facility noisy?**

**A:** Compared to typical industrial facilities, propane facilities do not produce a significant amount of noise.

**Q: Do propane storage facilities have a good safety record?**

**A:** Propane facilities have an excellent safety record. According to a recent study by Texas A&M University, there were very few incidents and no fatalities at propane storage facilities during the nine-year study period.

**Q: Am I at risk by living near a propane facility?**

**A:** There is always some amount of risk associated with all fuels, whether it's the fuel that heats our homes or the fuel that powers our cars and trucks. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the risk of a fatality to the general public resulting from a propane transportation or storage incident is minimal (1 in 37,000,000). By comparison, this risk is much less than that of death by lightning or a tornado.



**Q: Are local fire departments trained to assist in a propane fire or emergency?**

**A:** Yes. Through the industry-sponsored Propane Emergencies program, more than 200,000 firefighters have been trained to handle propane-related emergencies. The program is being used by 35 state firefighter training academies.

**Q: Will a propane facility help the local economy?**

**A:** Propane storage facilities add jobs and enhance the community's tax base.

**Q: Who decides if a propane storage facility will be built in the community?**

**A:** Local government councils or commissions are responsible for making the final decision on the building of a propane storage facility. Public comments and input are encouraged during the decision process.

**Q: Are employees of propane facilities well-trained?**

**A:** The propane industry has developed several award-winning and state-of-the-art safety and training programs. Employees go through a rigorous training program before they are allowed to handle propane.

**Q: Where can I get more information on propane safety?**

**A:** Go to [www.usepropane.com](http://www.usepropane.com) to get more information on propane and propane safety. Also, your local propane marketer can be of assistance.



[www.propanecouncil.org](http://www.propanecouncil.org)

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