

Focused on Propane Safety

Since You Asked

CBH CO-OP frequently receives calls with questions about propane. We're always happy to answer your questions, but the information below addresses some of the most common calls:

Housekeeping tips for your propane tank:

- Keep your propane system free of deep snow coverage. Tanks and fittings can shift under the weight of heavy snow.
- Shovels can damage lines, fittings and joints. Instead, use a broom to remove snow from the top of the tank.
- Exercise caution when operating heavy machinery around your tank. Keep a safe operating distance.
- Maintain the area around your tank by removing combustible materials, such as tall grass, brush, building materials or other debris. Flames and sparks should be nowhere near your propane system.

Safety tests and equipment

- **Leak test:** CBH CO-OP and their insurance company requires leak checks to be performed anytime there is a tank replaced or a new set installed, if there has been any kind of interruption in service*, a gas appliance is added or removed, a change in occupancy, if your tank is out of gas, or if you suspect a leak.
- **Regulator upgrade:** The gas regulator on your house is a vital component of your gas system, and like any mechanical device, it can wear out over time. Regulators need to be changed out according to manufacturer recommendations.
- **Line location:** If you plan on doing any digging near your propane line, have us mark it before you dig. This will help prevent accidentally cutting your line and causing a potentially hazardous situation as well as a costly repair bill.
- **Cathodic protection:** If you own an underground propane tank, the cathodic protection system attached to the underground propane tank should be tested every three years to ensure it is functioning properly.

How to read your (correct) tank gauge

Most propane tanks have a dome or cover that protects the valves, regulator and gauges from the weather. When you lift your dome, you should see one or two gauges. If you only see one, it is likely your liquid level gauge. If you see two, one of them is your liquid level gauge and the other is a pressure gauge with "PSI" somewhere on the dial. The liquid level of the tank will change with temperature. Take into consideration the temperature at the time you check, as propane will "shrink" in cold or "expand" in heat, even though there are the same number of gallons in the tank. When your gauge reads between 20% - 30%, place your propane order by calling your local CBH CO-OP at the numbers below.

If you smell gas:

1. Shut off all appliance valves
2. Close service valve on the propane tank if it is safe to do so
3. Call CBH CO-OP immediately at your local office, as follows:
 - **605-745-5215** if you are in Hot Springs areas.
 - **605-342-4964** if you are in Rapid City areas.
 - **605-720-2946** if you are in Sturgis areas, including Lead or Deadwood.
 - **605-892-2661** if you are in the Belle Fourche areas, including Spearfish.
 - **307-682-4468** if you are in Gillette and surrounding areas.

***Interruption of Service:** National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 8.2.3 requires a leak test to be performed following any changes to your system. This is known as an "interruption of service" and leak tests will prevent any propane-related accidents from happening to you, your family, or your property.



Lubricants Delivery Schedule

Belle Fourche
Sturgis
Rapid City

Tuesday & Thursday
Tuesday & Thursday
Tuesday & Thursday

All other areas are on a will call/as needed basis.