



Shaver Lake Volunteer Fire Department

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A message to the Shaver Lake Community:

Everyone with any connection to Shaver Lake is aware of the amount of snow that we have experienced in our area last year. In addition to almost 200 hundred inches of snow, we had also had significant rainfall and weeks of below freezing temperatures. Numerous propane tanks that were covered in deep snow began experiencing leaks as the weight of the heavy snow and ice can cause fittings, joints, and sometimes even the entire tank to shift. That problem was compounded as snow was cleared off roofs, driveways, and walkways onto tanks, lines, and fittings. Large piles of snow surrounding tanks and lines also prevented leaking gas from escaping thus creating a huge pocket of gas that resulted in our department receiving numerous calls of propane leaking into homes. Another problem that we saw last winter involved exhaust vents from gas furnaces becoming blocked or clogged with snow and ice. A compromised exhaust vent can produce serious injury or death from carbon monoxide poisoning. Fortunately, we did not see any injuries but several houses are believed to have been destroyed by fires attributed to propane leaks and/or blocked exhaust vents.

We expect that with the anticipated winter being forecasted for our area that many with cabins in Shaver will once again experience propane leaks. With that in mind, there is some information we wanted to provide you about propane safety and how to keep your family safe.

Upon returning to your home in Shaver, promptly clear snow off the top of all propane tanks, gauges, fittings, and lines. It is recommended that you use a broom or non-metallic shovel to accomplish this task to prevent accidentally puncturing the tank or line. Inspect chimneys, flue pipes, gas meters and vent connectors for damage, blockage, or debris. Be on the lookout for any signs of gas leaks in and around your home. **If a leak is suspected, evacuate the home immediately leaving the doors and windows open as you leave, shut off the gas and your electrical power, vacate to a safe distance from the home, dial 9-1-1 and notify your gas provider.**

Unlike propane, carbon monoxide is odorless and can be deadly. Make sure you have carbon monoxide detectors on all levels of your home and test their batteries when you return to your cabin after the long winter. It is very important to remember that the symptoms of low-level carbon monoxide poisoning are so easily mistaken for those of the common cold, flu or exhaustion.



1. NO FLAMES OR SPARKS! Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones, or cell phones. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or a fire.



4. REPORT THE LEAK. From a neighbor's home or other building away from the gas leak, call your propane supplier right away. If you can't reach your propane supplier, call 911 or your local fire department.



2. LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY! Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.



5. DO NOT RETURN TO THE BUILDING OR AREA until your propane supplier determines that it is safe to do so.



3. SHUT OFF THE GAS. Turn off the main gas supply valve on your propane tank, if it is safe to do so. To close the valve, turn it to the right [clockwise].



6. GET YOUR SYSTEM CHECKED. Before you attempt to use any of your propane appliances, your propane supplier or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure that it is leak-free.

It is our hope that by following these simple precautions, it will help you and your family stay safe and warm this winter and beyond.