



Nelson County Emergency Services Council
Nelson County, Virginia

Nelson County Emergency Services Council
Standard Operating Guideline

Subject:	Propane Leaks
Reference Number:	OPS 02-012
Effective Date:	1-May-17
Last Revision Date:	
Signature of Approval	David Graves, President

Purpose:

To establish a uniform approach to safely handling propane leaks.

Reminder - Propane has a high expansion rate, low ignition point, high flame temperature, and is a heavy gas which will seek low areas. In its natural state, propane is colorless and odorless.

Procedure:

To protect both personnel and equipment, park upwind and uphill of the leak when possible. Notify the gas company immediately.

Full protective gear and SCBA must be worn at all times.

Evacuate any civilians in the affected area.

Find the main supply valve (tank) and turn to the off position. If there are multiple tanks, turn them all off.

If there is an exterior main electrical breaker, disconnect the power.

Ventilate using natural means. (Windows and doors) Don't use electric or gas powered fans.

Plugging/clamping supply lines should only be done when a valve can't be located and there is imminent life threat. Various tools exist for this. Do not use any tool or technique which may create a spark.

Gas company employees are ultimately responsible for finding and controlling leaks. Fire personnel will man a charged line with a team of two firefighters in full SCBA while gas employees control the leak.