

CITY OF BEND FIRE RESCUE  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

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TITLE: Propane emergencies

NUMBER: P-5

**A. SIZE-UP/ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS**

- 1) Notify Propane vendor (if known) while en route
- 2) Maintain a safe distance – up slope and up wind
- 3) Identify Propane Vendor on arrival, request vendor response
- 4) Determine type of leak
  - Venting entirely to atmosphere? Vapor is heavier than air!
  - Contained in or infiltrating into a structure?
  - Beware of subterranean migration of gas into structures

**B. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHECKLIST**

- 1) Isolate and deny entry
- 2) Ensure ALL personnel are using appropriate PPE
- 3) Evacuate immediate area appropriate to size and type of incident
- 4) Eliminate potential ignition sources
- 5) Do not use potential ignition sources – switches, breakers, fire alarms, doorbells
- 6) Request appropriate power company for any gas in a structure
  - Power should be cut at pole or transformer
- 7) Follow IDLH protocol
- 8) Do not extinguish ignited leaks until you control the supply

**C. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

- 1) Provide a staffed, charged hose line for all known leaks
- 2) Monitor for gas at garages and crawl spaces first – without making entry if possible
  - Sample air from higher elevations to lower elevations
- 3) Proceed to monitor interior spaces in structure
- 4) If LEL is 10% or above
  - Evacuate structure

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POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND INSTRUCTION

- Request a full structure response
- 5) Residential structures – turn off gas at the tank
  - 6) Industrial or commercial occupancy with large storage – coordinate with facility and vendor before attempting to control supply
  - 7) After power is cut and leak is stopped – determine ventilation plan and do not make entry until LEL is below 10%
  - 8) Ventilate from the lowest point to the highest point