

Propane Safety and Thunderstorms

As a propane user, there are some precautions you should take to protect your home and family from injury or damage in the event of severe weather. Here are some of the key things to keep in mind:

Before the storm

- **Know how and where to shut off your outdoor propane supply and indoor propane appliances.** If you're not sure how, contact Paraco for details.
- **Know what propane smells like.** Propane has a strong, unpleasant smell (many say that it smells like a skunk's spray or rotten eggs).
- **Always store your extra propane cylinders outdoors.** Extra tanks should never be stored in your home, garage, basement, or shed. Keep them outside in a well-ventilated area on a flat surface.
- Install UL-listed **carbon monoxide and propane gas detectors** on every level of your home.
- **Instruct all family members on how turn off electricity, propane, and water.**
- Ask a Paraco expert if there are **any other special weather considerations that you should know.** Ask the same questions of utility providers as well.
- **Create an emergency preparedness plan for your family.** Designate escape routes, meeting places, and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. Review the plan regularly.

During the Storm

- **Seek shelter.** Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.
- **Find a substantial building when possible.** A car with a metal roof is a good alternate if you are not close to a safe structure.
- If you are caught outside, **find a low-lying area** away from trees, poles, or metal objects.
- **Keep away from metal objects** that can conduct electricity, such as tractors, telephone lines, and propane tanks and equipment.
- **Listen to your local authorities or news stations for storm updates.**

After the Storm

- **Use caution.** If you have any doubts about your safety, leave immediately.
- Ask a qualified building **inspector to examine your property** before you re-enter.
- **Carefully evaluate the condition** of the structures around your property.
- **If you have lost power, use flashlights** instead of candles.
- Ensure that there are **no downed power lines** around your property.
- **If gas lines or tanks appear to be damaged, call Paraco or your utility company immediately to report the damage.**
- **Keep a safe distance away from any downed lines or damaged equipment or appliances.** If you suspect any of your propane appliances have been damaged, underwater, or shut off, call Paraco. Do not use these appliances until a qualified service technician has inspected them.