



Handling Propane Tanks

Propane, also referred to as liquefied gas, is a popular fuel choice for individuals and businesses. It is delivered as a liquid and pumped into a storage tank, and it will not ignite with air until the ignition source reaches at least 920°F.

Furthermore, propane is 270 times more compact as a liquid than as a gas. As such, propane is easier to transport and store as a liquid than as a gas.

What should an operator do when handling propane fuel?

- Position the tank so the liquid propane does not come in contact with the relief valve.
- Ensure the locking pin engages into the cylinder and the valve is closed tightly.
- Store the cylinder outside, in an upright position, in an area where it can be secured and is protected from being struck.
- Put the cylinder down gently. Do not drop, dent, or damage.
- Always protect the valve from any damage.
- Avoid contact with liquid propane, as it can cause frostbite.
- Wear protective gloves while making or breaking connections.
- Ensure that only qualified persons repair carburetors and fuel supply systems.
- Exchange removable cylinders outdoors or in well-ventilated areas, away from ignition sources.
- Close the valve before breaking connections.

What steps should operators follow when changing fuel tanks?

- Wear eye protection and insulated, loose fitting gloves such as leather (dry) or insulated neoprene.
- Close the valve on the cylinder.
- Run the engine until it stops. This ensures that the connection hose is empty.
- Shut off the engine.
- Open the connecting nut and inspect valves for leaking. Do NOT use metal tools.
- Disconnect the hose followed by the holding straps.
- Remove the empty cylinder and replace with full cylinder in the proper position.
- Reconnect the holding straps and tighten the connecting nut (wiggle hose).
- Open the valve on the cylinder slowly and check for leaks.
- If the valve leaks: 1st time - Tighten the nut and continue. 2nd time - Change the cylinder. 3rd time - Change the hose.
- Open the valve fully (slowly).
- Check that the hose is turned inward.



- Secure the hose downward.
- Secure the cylinder.
- Start the engine and resume operation.

What should an operator NOT do when changing a propane tank (cylinder)?

- Do not use metal tools when changing a cylinder.
- Do not let the cylinder get too hot.
- Do not use matches or a flame to check for leaks. Use soap or a leak detector.
- Do not mount more than two LPG cylinders on any forklift truck.

SAFETY REMINDER

When it comes to propane tank safety, it is always better to err on the side of caution. Thus, if you smell gas, you'll want to act fast to minimize this danger.