

Catholic Mutual...CARES

Propane/Gas Cylinders and Grill Safety

Cookouts for your festivals and other events can be a fun and enjoyable part of your church gatherings. However, safety precautions should be taken when it comes to the operation and/or storage of gas grills, propane tanks or other compressed gas cylinders being used for the cookouts. Propane, as well as other compressed gases, is a highly explosive gas easily ignited by various sources such as flame from a pilot light or arcing of a light switch. *Propane cylinders should **NEVER** be brought inside a building. A slight variance in temperature can cause the gas cylinder to either expand or contract and release the gas, creating the potential for an explosion and fire.* The following Best Practice guidelines should be followed:

Inspection:

- Always keep gas valve in the off position when not in use
- Inspect your cylinder monthly checking for leaks, damage, dents, rust, etc.
- Never use matches or lighters when checking for leaks
- Check rubber tubing gas line and replace if there is evidence of deterioration
- If there is evidence of oxidation, you should replace the cylinder
- Always have cylinders refilled by a qualified service station operator

Usage:

- Keep flammable liquids away from cylinders at all times
- Do not use dented, cracked or other visibly damaged cylinders
- Do not remove any labels on cylinders
- When opening the valve, check for leaks
- If you suspect a leak and are able to safely turn off the gas, do so immediately
- Do not use excessive force when tightening the valve or connecting points
- Never remove a valve wrench from an acetylene cylinder while the cylinder is in use
- Before disconnecting, ensure grill and cylinder valve are off
- Never allow children to tamper or play with a propane cylinder
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby
- Ensure cylinders are certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory
- The use of homemade gas grills and/or their attached equipment is not allowed due to the safety hazards they present

Storage:

- Always store propane cylinders outdoors
- Never store a cylinder inside or in an enclosed area
- Store in an upright position
- Cylinders must be secured at all times to prevent falling over
- Store in a ventilated area away from any heat source or direct sunlight
- Never store additional cylinders near or under a grill

Because many items can have defects or recalls, we recommend checking the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) website to determine if there are any warnings or recalls on the gas grill and/or propane cylinder being used. All cylinders and grills should be inspected prior to use.