Keep Safe and Warm During Winter Storm

Epsom, NH (January 26, 2015) — With Winter Storm Juno on its way, the 1,250,000 homes and business in New England that rely on propane to generate heat or run appliances should make sure to take the following steps to keep everyone safe and warm:

Be Prepared:

1. **Mark location of your tank with a flag, pole, or stake – and keep path to tank clear.** The marker should be higher than the expected snow cover depth for your location. It will help to avoid plowing or shoveling snow on top of your tank. Should your tank become covered with snow, use a broom to clear it. And ensure that there is a clear path to your tank for deliveries.

2. **Check your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and propane tank for damage, blockage, or debris caused by snow and ice.** Use a broom rather than a shovel, and clear these areas frequently. This will help reduce the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning due to blocked or damaged chimneys, flues, and vents.

3. **Contact propane supplier when tank is 30% full.** During and after a winter storm, roads may be inaccessible for delivery. It is recommended that you establish a regular delivery schedule with your propane retailer. Most suppliers advise waiting until your tank is down to 30% full before scheduling your next delivery.

4. **Keep home or business temperature up.** Keeping the thermostat turned up will you’re your house warm in case power is lost.

5. **Use extreme caution when operating portable generators.** Never use a portable generator (gasoline, diesel, or propane) indoors or in enclosed areas. This can result in carbon monoxide poisoning or death. Keep portable generators outside and ten feet from the house.

6. **Never use a stove for space heating and never use outdoor propane appliances indoors or in enclosed areas.** Proper ventilation is necessary for their safe operation; and carbon monoxide fumes emitted can be lethal. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for indoor use.

Stay Safe:

Take immediate action if you smell gas inside or outside of your home or business. Follow these simple instructions:

1. **No flames or sparks!** Immediately put out all smoking materials and other open flames. Do not operate or turn on or off lights, appliances, telephones or cell phones.

2. **Leave the area immediately!** Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.

3. **Shut off the gas.** Turn off the main gas supply valve on your propane tank, if it is safe to do so. To close the valve, turn it to the right (clockwise).
4. **Report the leak.** From a neighbor’s home or other building away from the gas leak, call your propane retailer right away. If you can’t reach your propane retailer, call 911 or your local fire department.

5. **Do not return to the building or area** until your propane retailer, emergency responder, or qualified service technician determines that it is safe to do so.

6. **Get your system checked.** Before you attempt to use any of your propane appliances, your propane retailer or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure that it is leak-free.

For more information on how consumers can prepare for a safe and comfortable winter, visit [www.propanecomfort.com](http://www.propanecomfort.com).

**About the Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE)**
The Propane Gas Association of New England serves more than 650 members of the propane industry by promoting safety, education, and public awareness of the uses of propane.

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