

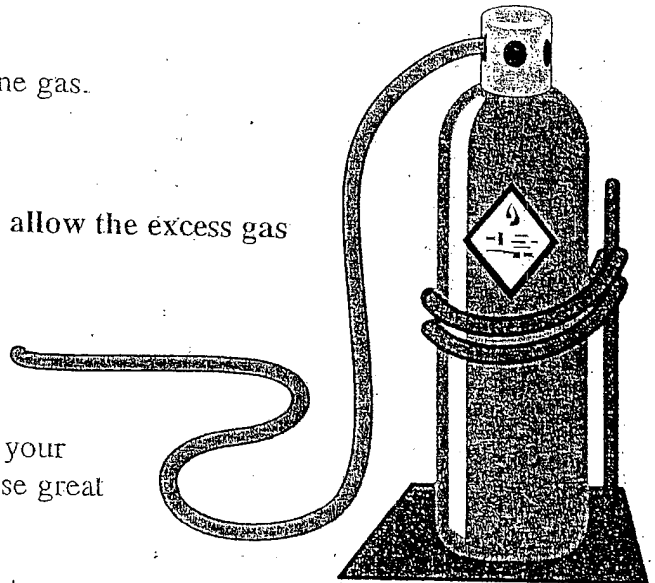
# TOOLBOX TALKS

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION • CNA COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

## Propane Safety

Propane, or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), is gas that is cooled, compressed, and stored in pressurized containers. This process allows for great amounts of fuel to be stored in a small container, but also creates significant hazards.

- ☞ **LPG cylinders come in a variety of sizes, and choosing the right size is important.**
  - The most common sizes in the roofing industry are 20-, 40-, and 100-pound cylinders.
  - If you select a cylinder that is too small for your job, the tank may frost and decrease the amount of propane being released. This is most likely to happen during torching applications in colder climates.
  - If a tank does frost, then let it thaw naturally. Don't torch the cylinder in order to defrost it because you can weaken the shell of the container which can lead to an explosion.
  
- ☞ **Make sure that all cylinders are chained or secured in an upright positions.**
  - Do not allow the cylinders to lay on their sides. Liquid may enter the hose and cause problems in the vapor withdrawal system.
  - Gas cylinders can become dangerous missiles if the seal between the casing and the valve is broken.
  
- ☞ **When lighting a torch, use a spark generator.**
  - Don't use matches or lighters to light torches.
  - And never smoke in an area where there is propane gas.
  
- ☞ **When shutting off the gas, close the regulator and allow the excess gas in the hose to burn off.**



Propane, as well as any other compressed gas, demands your respect. Misusing a cylinder or allowing it to fall can pose great dangers to you and your co-workers.

### Propane Safety Training Tips

- Demonstrate the correct way to put on, open, and close a regulator.
- Ask the following questions:
  - Why can't you smoke where people are using propane gas, if it's in a cylinder?
  - Why can't you use a torch to thaw a cylinder?