

# Home fire safety inspection

## 1-Propane

Connected and additional bottles should ideally be placed outside.

Check all connections: check bottles, hoses, regulators and appliances. Hoses dry out, crack and leak. A good practice is to replace hoses every 5 years.

Use a spray bottle with water and a little soap added to spray connections and hoses, then watch for bubbles for about 3 minutes, in case of slow leak.

A large leak will produce large bubbles immediately and a small leak will produce a foam of bubbles.

These steps should be taken upon arrival in the fall and whenever the tank is replaced, the tank and fittings in that area should be checked. If you are not that familiar with changing out your bottles, please ask the Gaspasa men to hook up the bottle(s) for you and check for leaks.

Have the proper wrench and spray bottle handy.

Propane Sniffers are an inexpensive tool to detect leaks and are highly recommended.

## 2-Electrical

Check your breaker box, make sure that your breakers trip properly by shutting them off manually.

Check plug outlets and wires for blackening or melting and try not to use extension cords with too many appliances plugged into them.

Regular checks should be done.

## 3-Batteries

Have a small bucket of sand on hand in your battery area in case the batteries catch on fire.

Ensure that all connections are tight and clean, make sure there is a half inch space between each battery.

Properly maintain batteries and check water levels if applicable.

Use proper size cables and keep area well ventilated to outside if possible.

Keep combustibles clear of batteries.

These should be checked regularly.

## 4-Fuel storage

Ensure proper containers are used to contain and dispense fuel.

Make sure containers are properly sealed.

Store in a safe place outside, if possible.

Do not store near an ignition source (spark or flame).

If your fuel has to be stored within an enclosure, keep the area well ventilated.

## 5-Safety equipment

Try to have at least one fire extinguisher.

An ABC all-purpose extinguisher would suit most situations. The spray is nonconductive and can be used on electrical, gas and dry fires. These are best used on small fires and are sprayed at base of fire to obtain the best results.

Smoke alarms and gas detectors (sniffer for propane) are best placed in areas that are most likely to have a fire, e.g., storage area, kitchen, battery room, and as well, have a couple to alert you at night and provide light for passage out of your house (outside of the bedroom is a great starter) and have a flashlight on hand for each bedroom. Smoke detector batteries can wear out in less than a year, so be sure to have a spare battery and change it, especially if you will be away for awhile.

A sniffer can be purchased for approximately \$35-40 USD online or at a local hardware store.

These are level gauges with positive seal and gas detectors build right in.

Know your exit plan and have a meeting area for family and friends.

Have an air horn to call for help and know your procedures for getting help.

Remember that safety is everyone's responsibility. As a group we can reduce the chance of fire or injury due to bad or negligent practices. The fire safety committee is not and will not be held responsible for any incidence that may occur because of fire or injury or death. The members are here to offer ideas that the homeowner may use to improve the safety of the home. Liability lies fully with the homeowner.