

## Scouts NSW Policy

### Safe storage, transport and use of Gas Cylinders, Liquid Fuels, Naked Flames and Associated Equipment.

1. Introduction
  - 1.1. The information in this policy is based on advice from NSW Fire and Rescue, Energy Safe Victoria and Scoutsafe NSW. This policy includes, but is not restricted, to the following fuel types.
  - 1.2. Methylated Spirits is generally only used in non-pressurized stoves. This type of stove is popular with bushwalkers for their simplicity, safety and lightweight.
  - 1.3. Shellite is a more highly refined form of petrol and is a highly volatile fuel.
  - 1.4. Kerosene is cheap and burns well.
  - 1.5. Unleaded Petrol burns well. Highly volatile fuel with risk of fumes explosions from spills. Like all fuels, use only in a well ventilated area.
  - 1.6. Diesel widely available and cheap.
  - 1.7. Hexamine Fuel Tablets are a solid fuel that is commonly used in Australian Army style field stove. They are relatively cheap and easy to use.
  - 1.8. LP Gas is a combination of hydrocarbon gases such as propane and butane. LP Gas is stored as a liquid under pressure. Generally, refillable cylinders contain propane and disposable cylinders contain butane. LP Gas is colourless but has a strong characteristic smell which makes it easy to detect.
  - 1.9. Because it is heavier than air, LP Gas collects in low places and may not disperse easily or quickly. It is highly inflammable and easily ignited. While LP Gas is not poisonous, breathing high concentrations will cause vomiting, headaches and nausea. Gas escapes can lead to explosions and fires.
2. Equipment
  - 2.1. All fuel containers must be appropriate to the type of fuel being carried. Manufacturer's requirements must be followed.
  - 2.2. LPG cylinders should be in good condition and preferably less than 10 years old.
  - 2.3. Cylinders need to be re-tested and stamped by an accredited tester every 10 years.
  - 2.4. Cylinders should be stored upright in a well ventilated area, preferably outside.
  - 2.5. Cylinder valves should be fully opened and then turn back one turn when in use. This allows the valve to be easily shut without the possibility of it being jammed open.
  - 2.6. After use the valve should be fully closed and the gas in the hose allowed to 'burn out/purge' before the cylinder is disconnected.
  - 2.7. Only use parts and appliances (including hoses) that are designed for LP Gas.
  - 2.8. Never use homemade appliances or connections.
  - 2.9. If there is a need to check for leaks you should only use soapy water (never use a match) – if bubbles form, there is a leak.
  - 2.10. If the gas fails to light properly, turn off the supply and leave for three minutes to allow unburnt gas to disperse.
  - 2.11. Ensure that any washers (if needed) are in the correct position.
  - 2.12. During transport, LP Gas cylinders should be secured in an upright position.
  - 2.13. When transporting cylinders in the car, the total capacity must not exceed 9kg, and preferably stored in the boot.
  - 2.14. Do not leave LP Gas cylinders in a car unnecessarily. No more than two cylinders should be carried in a car. Particular care should be taken during hot weather.
  - 2.15. Appropriate fire safety equipment should be readily available.
  - 2.16. LP Gas equipment should be used in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
3. Lighting
  - 3.1. Naked flame (including gas) lighting is not permitted inside tents.
  - 3.2. Naked flame lighting inside dining/cooking shelters is only permitted if the lantern is secured on a bracket/frame/stand that is designed to keep the lantern upright and at least 1 meter away from any wall and two meters away from any roof or ceiling. The lantern must be on a flat surface and not in a position that will create a trip hazard.
  - 3.3. Under no circumstances are naked flame lanterns to be attached to any ridge pole/rope.
  - 3.4. It is the preference of Scouts NSW that naked flame lighting should not be used, as there are appropriate and readily available alternatives. These include battery operated LEDs and solar powered lighting.
  - 3.5. Notwithstanding this, the organizer of any activity e.g. Jamborette, Cuboree, Rally, Dragonskin, troop camp, pack holiday; can restrict the use of naked flame lighting on that activity.
4. Cooking equipment
  - 4.1. The use of naked flame cooking equipment is not permitted inside tents.
  - 4.2. The use of naked flame cooking equipment inside dining/cooking shelters is only permitted if the equipment is at least 1 meter away from any wall and two meters away from any roof or ceiling.
  - 4.3. This equipment includes, but is not restricted to, BBQs, hot-water systems, ring boilers etc.
  - 4.4. Professionally installed naked flame cooking equipment in permanent, hard construction buildings, are exempt from these requirements. Such equipment should be checked regularly to ensure compliance with manufacturers requirements.

#### References:

1. Energy Safe Victoria – Camping & Leisure Safety with LP.
2. NSW Fire & Rescue – Fact Sheet No. 43 LPG Cylinder Safety Checklist.