

PROPANE LEAK TEST

SECTION: 5.5
PROCEDURE: LEAK TESTS

ISSUED:
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PERFORMING A LEAK TEST

Every time that a propane cylinder is either received at your facility, or changed on a piece of equipment, **a leak test must be performed !!!!** This procedure only takes a few seconds, and can save a life. Think about how many times in the past that you have taken for granted that there aren't any leaks.

Once you get in the habit of performing leak tests, you may be surprised at how many leaks you detect. Many of these leaks are minor and can be controlled by simply tightening a connection, however, if you detect a leak that cannot be controlled, there may be a need to follow your company's emergency response plan.

To conduct a leak test, simply apply a solution of soap and water to all connections, joints, hoses, and valves on the cylinder and watch to see if it bubbles up, the bubbles get larger, or there is a spot where the solution freezes. This will tell you exactly where the leak is and allow you to take the appropriate measures to control the leak if possible.

In conditions where the temperature is below zero, a soap and water solution will freeze on contact, and therefore, you may need to use a commercial leak testing solution that is available from your propane supplier.

If You Detect A Leak

The very first thing you must do upon detection of a propane leak is to close the liquid service valve. The 2 most common locations for leaks are at the connection, which is possibly due to a poor seal, or at the spit valve, which is used to determine when a cylinder is full.

Never receive or store a cylinder that is leaking, and **NEVER** use a cylinder that has a leak. Report the incident immediately to your supervisor so that the appropriate measures can be taken.