

NFPA Fact Sheet

Propane safety

Almost 90% of liquefied petroleum (LP) gas fires in homes between 1994-1998 involved ignition by some form of equipment. The most common types were open-fired grills, hot water heaters and stoves. In the United States, LP-gas for residential use is almost exclusively propane; however, butane is also an LP-gas.

Facts & Figures*

- In 1998, there were 1,600 LP-gas fires in U.S. homes, resulting in 41 deaths, 260 injuries and \$30.8 million in direct property damage.
- The leading cause of LP-gas fires from 1994-1998 was part failure, leak or break.

(*From NFPA's *U.S. Home Product Report: Forms and Types of Materials First Ignited in Fires*, December 2001)

Safety Tips:

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Cylinder tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when lighting a pilot.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately and call the fire department from outside the home.