

# Be Aware of Propane Odor Fade

Propane is a liquid hydrocarbon that vaporizes into a colorless, odorless, highly flammable gas. In properly maintained and operated systems, propane is completely safe. However, it can be extremely dangerous if an uncontrolled release of propane occurs. In order to detect an uncontrolled release of propane, an odorant, usually ethyl mercaptan, is added to propane.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. No odorant is effective to warn every user 100 percent of the time.
2. Colds, allergies, smoking, alcohol or age can affect your ability to smell odor.
3. Strong competing odors may mask the odor of escaping propane. Continued exposure to any odor, including odorized propane, can cause an individual to get used to the odor and fail to detect its presence. The strength of the odor is not a reliable indicator of the amount of gas present.
4. Propane is heavier than air, making floor-level leaks hard to detect. When smelling for propane, be sure to smell for propane at floor level.
5. Exposure to certain masonry materials may lessen the effectiveness of the odorant.