

Propane Safety During Snow

Over 20 feet of snow in February has created great ski conditions but also great potential for damage to propane meters and piping. District staff has observed that many propane meters are currently not visible, buried under snowbanks that are up to 20 feet high. It is the customer's responsibility to remove snow from around propane meters and meter enclosures to ensure that snow and ice buildup does not damage equipment and cause leaks. It is also important to note that decks and roofs can collapse under the weight of snow. If your propane meter is located under a deck or roof, such a collapse could cause damage to equipment and a propane leak.

Propane leaks can be very dangerous, in some cases leading to fire or explosion that can completely destroy a home. Regular snow removal is essential to ensure that District and Fire Department staff can reach your propane meter and gas shut-off valve in the case of an emergency.

Finally, snow banks can build up and block intake or exhaust vents for propane appliances, even if the vents are located on the second floor or at roof level. If a vent is blocked, carbon monoxide from the exhaust may build up in your home, eventually causing dangerous or potentially even deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Blocked vents can also cause other issues such as appliance malfunction.

Please take the time to clear the snow from your propane meter or propane enclosure, decks or roofs above your propane equipment and appliance vents immediately. This is essential, even if your home is not occupied, to ensure the continued safe use of propane at your home. The District maintains a list of property managers and snow shovelers that can assist you if needed. Please contact the District office at 209-258-4444 for the list.