



BSA SAFETY MOMENT

PROPANE STOVES

SUMMARY

“Stoves made for the outdoors can also extend the range of your travels by giving you a reliable way to generate heat anywhere and in any weather”. This is a quote from the 2014 edition of the *Fieldbook (Scouting’s Manual of Basic and Advanced Skills for Outdoor Adventure)*. A propane camp stove has a lot of versatility. Two-burner propane stoves tend to be used more for base camping where the stove is setup and used in one location during the camping trip. There are some single burner propane stoves, although they tend to be a bit bulky and not always suitable for long backpacking trips.



Figure 1 - Single Burner Propane Camp Stove

GENERAL INFORMATION

As with any fueled stove, there are a few safety measures that should be followed:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions before using it.
- Never use a stove inside or near a tent, not even under a dining fly.
- Use only the manufacturer’s windscreens and never place a single burner stove inside a large pot, to block the wind (could lead to an explosion of the canister).
- Don’t overload the stove with a heavy pot and never leave a stove unattended.
- Let the stove cool completely before you open it, change fuel canisters or put it away.
- Keep all propane canisters away from sources of heat, even if they are empty.
- When changing canisters, or if you suspect a problem, test for leakage by using a solution of 1 tablespoon of dish soap mixed with 1 cup of water. Lightly sprinkle the soap-water solution over the connection and fittings of from the propane canister or tank to the stove. If you see bubbles from any connection, turn off and disconnect the propane canister or tank and reconnect properly. Most connections should be hand-tightened.
- Small propane canisters should not be refilled. Many states have laws regulating the types of propane tanks that can be refilled. Visit an authorized, local propane dealer for details.



Figure 2 - Classic Two Burner Propane Camp Stove

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

“Stove Safety” - *Fieldbook, 5th Edition* – Boy Scouts of America – Page 79.

“Safety Tips for Using a Propane Camping Stove – www.trails.com/list_1114_tips-using-propane-camping-stove.html

NFPA – Propane Safety: www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/gasoline-and-propane/propane-safety

Chemical Fuels and Equipment Policy; Guide to Safe Scouting: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss06/