

## PORTCHESTER SAILING CLUB HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDANCE NOTE No.3 Gas Safety on Cruisers during Storage Ashore

### Aim:

To compile some general safety advice for members using/storing Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) on their boats and some suggestions of what may be done during winter to minimise risks posed by gas on boats.

### General Information:

Portchester Sailing Club and the author of this document accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or quality of the information provided and it is up to individuals to decide the applicability to their circumstances.

The information being compiled has been sourced mainly from the Boat Safety Scheme website

The website states:

The Boat Safety Scheme, or BSS, works on behalf of the UK's navigation and harbour authorities to help sustain safety and promote pollution avoidance on the inland waterways in respect of boats, their installations and components. The BSS does this through advice, identification of hazards, promoting techniques to avoid risks and information gathering and research.

The navigation authorities are committed to help prevent boat fires, explosions, or pollution harming other people and property.

The Scheme reduces the risk of such incidents by using the BSS examination to verify that systems and appliances on any given boat at least meet the minimum safety requirements.

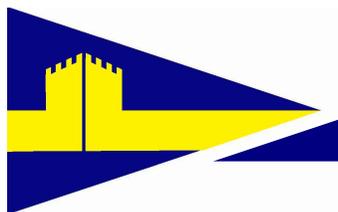
The website has a document about LPG installations

([http://www.boatsafetyscheme.com/downloads/BSS\\_Guide\\_chap7.pdf](http://www.boatsafetyscheme.com/downloads/BSS_Guide_chap7.pdf)) which provides a good level of detail for the use of gas aboard a boat.

If an owner is in any doubt about the condition, design or maintenance of the LPG installation installed in their vessel it is recommended that advice is sought from a suitably qualified gas engineer

### Additional Advice

- During winter storage gas bottles should remain on the craft in a locker ventilated to external air and are not locked away in the hull.
- Bottles should be turned off, disconnected and pipe ends/valves sealed to prevent dirt/insect ingress.
- They should not be taken home. Fire Brigades expect bottles to be present in caravan and boat parks so when dealing with fires in such locations take the necessary precautions.
- If bottles are stored in residential premises they present greater risk to the population in general and can result in large scale evacuation of high density residential areas in the event of fire. The isolated location of PSC would enable the establishment of an exclusion zone with minimal disturbance to local residents in the unlikely event this proved necessary.

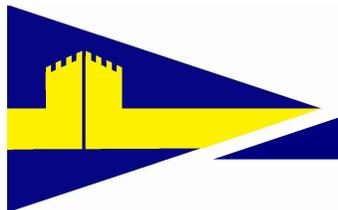


## CHECKLIST

Below is a checklist which may provide a useful reminder of gas safety aboard:

Tick when completed

- LPG Cylinder in Gas Locker
  - openable only from the top
  - provided with a suitable lid or cover
  - provision to drain leaked LPG from lowest point of locker or housing overboard
- LPG cylinder housing in self-draining cockpit
  - outlets above deepest loaded waterline,
  - hatches or openings to be watertight
- Materials of drain pipes, hoses and connections suitable for use with LPG and at least 19mm internal diameter
- Store LPG cylinders in upright position with valve uppermost
- Secured cylinders to prevent damage due to movement
- Cylinder locker/housing does not contain items that could damage regulator(s) or pipe work
- Cylinder locker/housing does not contain items that could obstruct the drain
- Cylinder locker/housing does not contain items that could ignite leaking LPG
- Regularly Inspect pipe work for damage
- When using for the final time turn gas off at cylinder whilst appliance is still alight and allow the supply to extinguish naturally
- For long storage periods disconnect the appliance gas supply pipe at the cylinder
- Store Self-contained portable appliances in cylinder locker or housing
- LPG cylinders to be accessible and removable in an emergency



## Appendix 1 – Emergency Action Notice

Owners may find it useful to prominently display this notice in their Vessel.

**EMERGENCY ACTION NOTICE**  
**“WHEN THE GAS ALARM SOUNDS”**

1. **DON'T PANIC!**  
*Gas alarms are designed to sound well below the gas' lower limit of flammability*
2. **TURN OFF** all gas cylinders

If safe to do so,

3. **EXTINGUISH ANY SOURCES IGNITION** *these include any lit gas appliances, any electrical appliances, all engines.*
4. **OPEN ALL HATCHES, DOORS, WINDOWS, LOCKERS & CUPBOARDS, LIFT SOLE BOARDS**  
*create a through draft to disperse the gas*
5. **DO NOT SMOKE** *while a lit cigarette may ignite the gas, lighting another one certainly would*

**REMEMBER!**  
*The gas you are using is heavier than air so this could take some time. Mixing up the gas by fanning the air in the cabin using a jacket or coat will speed up the process.*

When its safe to do so, retry your gas alarm from time to time until it ceases to “sound off”.

6. **DO NOT** re-use your gas system until it has been inspected and tested for gas leaks by a “competent” gas engineer.
- 7.

**NEVER USE A NAKED FLAME**  
**AS A MEANS OF LOCATING GAS LEAKS**



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Horus Alarms

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