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## Public Service Message

### **Safe Handling of Propane Urged by State Association** ***Basic Precautions Will Keep Consumers Safe & Aid Recovery***

**Trenton, NJ (November 12, 2012)** – As cleanup efforts continue throughout much of New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy, many homes and businesses affected by the storm have turned to propane gas for heat, hot water, cooking and electricity generation. The New Jersey Propane Gas Association advises that propane can serve a key role in the days ahead, but that consumers need to use caution when handling tanks, fuel lines, appliances and generators to ensure safety.

When handled properly, propane is a very versatile and safe fuel. However, here are some important safety tips from the New Jersey Propane Gas Association:

#### **Handle Propane Tanks Carefully**

- Don't use or store propane tanks in basements or living spaces
- Properly secure portable propane tanks when transporting
- Do not leave portable propane tanks in cars or closed vehicles
- Secure temporary tanks when used for building heat, hot water, or cooking
- Contact a qualified propane service retailer to connect tanks to appliances

#### **Use Propane Gas Appliances With Care**

- Do not use propane gas BBQ grills inside
- Refrain from using stoves or ovens for space heating
- Do not use portable electric generators indoors – keep outside of building
- Have a qualified propane service technician connect appliances and perform a leak test

#### **If You Smell Gas**

- Immediately extinguish all smoking materials and open flames
- Get everyone out of the area where you suspect the gas is leaking
- Turn off the gas supply valve of your propane tank if it is safe to do so
- Once away from the leak, contact your propane supplier. If you can't reach them, call 911
- Do not return to the area until your propane retailer, emergency responder, or qualified service technician determines it is safe to do so

For more information, visit the New Jersey Propane Gas Association at [www.njpga.org](http://www.njpga.org) or the Propane Education & Research Council at [www.usepropane.com](http://www.usepropane.com), or call the New Jersey Propane Gas Association at 609-890-6094.

#### **About the New Jersey Propane Gas Association**

*The New Jersey Propane Gas Association is a member-focused trade organization which promotes, educates, and supports the growth of the propane industry in New Jersey. The association represents the industry to identify opportunities for training and networking with peers, and to aid with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.*