

NEWS RELEASE
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Top 10 Tips for Safe Propane Use in Your RV

(Vancouver, BC) –Touring in recreational vehicles (RVs) is growing in popularity, with more than 800,000 RVs on the roads in Canada and sales up by 13 per cent in 2007.* With more and more families taking up the RV lifestyle comes an increase need for RV safety.

Propane is commonly used in RVs for furnaces, fridges, water heaters, barbecues and stove ranges. Although propane is a combustible, when handled properly and in a safe manner it is not dangerous.

As the summer driving season approaches, the British Columbia Safety Authority and the Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of BC offer some tips for propane safety on your RV.

- 1) **Get your blue decal.** Propane equipment should be checked and maintained by a certified technician at least once every two years. The technician will give you a blue BC Safety Authority decal confirming a safety inspection has been completed and the necessary repairs have been made.
- 2) **Know the smell.** If you detect the rotten egg odour of propane, get everyone out of the vehicle and close the supply valve.
- 3) **Circulate air.** Open a vent or window and turn on the range hood fan when using a propane stove or oven. This will remove moisture and combustion products that may contain carbon monoxide.
- 4) **Cook, don't heat.** Never use stove burners or the oven for space heating. Never cook while your RV is moving.
- 5) **Take it outside.** Do not use portable propane camping equipment such as camp stoves, barbecues or radiant heaters in your RV. They are meant to be used out of doors.
- 6) **Know the signs.** If anyone shows signs of carbon monoxide poisoning (headaches, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, confusion, impaired judgment, loss of manual dexterity) have everyone leave the RV and get medical attention.
- 7) **Get an alarm.** Consider purchasing a propane gas alarm and carbon monoxide alarm.

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- 8) **Be careful with your cylinder.** Never use, store or transport propane cylinders or liquid fuels in the passenger space or living area of your RV. Don't transport or use propane containers that are damaged, show signs of corrosion, have been exposed to fire or appear to be leaking.
- 9) **Turn it off when refuelling.** When you stop to refuel your RV, be sure that all sources of ignition including pilot lights and engines are turned off or extinguished. Also, all occupants of the RV should leave the vehicle.
- 10) **Buy smart.** When buying a pre-owned RV, make sure it has been safety inspected by a certified technician.

For more information about RV propane safety and BC Safety Authority registered recreation vehicle shops, visit www.safetyauthority.ca or www.vehiclesalesauthority.com. A propane safety brochure is also available by contacting your local BC Safety Authority office, or call toll-free 1-866-566-7233 (SAFE).

The BC Safety Authority is an independent, self-funded corporation that inspires safety excellence in British Columbia by partnering with business, industry and the general public to enhance the safety of technical systems, products, equipment and work.

The Motor Vehicle Sales Authority of BC is a non-profit organization delegated by the provincial government to administer and enforce the Motor Dealer Act, prescribed sections of the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act and related regulations under those Acts. The VSA regulates and licenses approximately 1,700 motor dealers and approximately 7,000 sales professionals.

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