

## POLICY ON THE USE OF CAMP STOVES, STOVE FUELS, AND FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

Current through 3-20-07

**PURPOSE:** To provide a uniform troop policy concerning the use by scouts of cooking stoves and flammable liquids on troop activities. This policy does not cover the use of patio/Tiki torches or their fuel.

This policy takes into consideration the following:

- A. Safety.
- B. Teaching outdoor skills, including cooking, to scouts.
- C. Convenience of the scouts.

### I. POLICY

#### A. DEFINITIONS:

1. **STOVE:** A stove is any device used to cook or heat food, drinks or water, other than a wood-burning campfire or charcoal.
2. **BOTTLED-FUEL STOVE:** A bottled-fuel stove is any stove which uses only fuel which has been factory-sealed in a metal container. Such fuels include propane, butane, a propane/butane mix, isobutane, Coleman brand Powermax fuel; and specifically *excludes* stoves which use liquid fuels, including those which use the fuel commonly known as white gas.
3. **LIQUID-FUEL STOVE:** A liquid-fuel stove is any stove which uses fuel which has not been factory-sealed in a metal container. Such fuels include but are not limited to white gas, (sometimes known as Coleman fuel, camp stove fuel or lantern fuel), unleaded automotive gas, kerosene, and alcohol.
4. **FLAMMABLE LIQUID:** A flammable liquid is any liquid which burns, including but not limited to white gas, automotive gas, kerosene, alcohol, charcoal-lighting fluid, and patio/tiki torch fuel.

## B. WHO MAY USE A STOVE

1. Any scout who has satisfactorily completed a bottled-fuel stove safety course presented by the troop, or who has otherwise satisfied the Scoutmaster that he is qualified to use a stove, may use a bottled-fuel stove. There are no age or rank requirements to use a bottled-fuel stove, but all use by scouts during their first six months in the troop must be under the direct and personal supervision of their Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, or a troop adult leader. (ADirect and personal supervision@ means that the supervisor must be personally present at all times when the stove is being used).
2. Any scout who is at least 14 years of age, has advanced to the rank of Star or above, and who has satisfactorily completed a liquid-stove safety course presented by the troop may use a liquid-fuel stove.
3. Only the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster may certify that a scout is qualified to use a stove, or any particular stove.

## C. CONTAINERS FOR STOVE FUELS AND FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

1. Bring only the amount of fuel needed for that particular trip.
2. Liquid stove fuel must be carried and stored in containers specifically intended for stove fuels, such as seamless, spun-aluminum bottles manufactured by Sigg, or red plastic fuel bottles manufactured by Nalgene. (Any other fuel containers must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster or an Asst. Scoutmaster). Such containers may not be larger than one quart capacity.
3. Liquid fuels may never be carried in the containers in which they were originally sold, such as one-gallon gas cans. Transfer fuel from original containers at home, and never at camp or in the parking lot.
4. Propane cylinders come in several sizes. Only 14.7 or 16.4-ounce propane fuel cylinders may be used. In particular, scouts may not use the 20-pound propane tanks used on outdoor BBQ grills.
5. Butane, propane/butane mix, isobutane, and Coleman brand Powermax canisters typically come in 8-ounce or smaller sizes.

## D. STOVE AND FUEL SAFETY

1. Stoves and fuel of any type may NEVER be taken inside a tent, tent vestibule, lean-to or other shelter, whether for cooking or storage. Stoves and fuel must be stored outdoors at least 20 feet from the campfire and any tent, or in a storage container approved by the Scoutmaster.

2. Stoves may NEVER be used to heat a tent or other shelter. Stoves burn oxygen and give off carbon dioxide - CO<sub>2</sub>. Use of a stove inside a tent or shelter may cause death or serious injury.
3. **Liquid fuel may NEVER be used to start a fire, poured on a fire or flame, poured on the ground, or used in any manner other than as stove fuel, or in any manner which might be unsafe.**
4. Stoves must be completely cool before adding any type of fuel, or changing fuel canisters or bottles. Never attempt to add fuel or a new fuel canister or bottle to a stove which is hot or warm.
5. Never fill a stove near a fire or flame, including near another lit stove.
6. All bottled-fuel containers MUST be packed out and taken home, and may NEVER be disposed of in a campfire, buried, or left in camp.
7. This is not a complete list of safety rules for stoves and stove fuel. Those complete rules will be covered in the stove safety courses required before a scout may use a stove, as noted above.

#### E. VIOLATIONS OF THESE RULES

1. Violation of any of the above rules WILL result in serious disciplinary action, including the possible suspension or dismissal from the troop, and/or the scout not being permitted to use stoves in the future.
2. Any scout who knows of a violation of these safety rules and does not immediately report that violation to the Scoutmaster may receive any of the above disciplinary actions.