

City of Bristol Tennessee

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Propane Tanks for the Outdoor Grill Potential Safety Hazard

For those who like to grill it up during the summer on gas grills, here is a safety announcement the community should be aware of.

Many individuals exchange their propane tanks on their grills every summer without thinking about the safety of such actions. The National Propane Gas Association released a warning concerning this tank exchanges. Manufacturers of the illegal substance Methamphetamine are getting propane tanks from exchanges at Wal-Mart, Kroger, etc. and emptying them of the propane. They are being filled with anhydrous ammonia. After the manufacturers are finished with them, they return them to the store. They are then refilled with propane by the propane gas distributor and sent back out to stores for re-sale. Anhydrous ammonia is very corrosive and weakens the structure of the tank. It can be very dangerous when mixed with propane and hooked up to grills. You should inspect the propane tank for any blue or greenish residue around the valve areas. If it is present, refuse to purchase that tank. "It can also be dangerous to move the cylinder due to the unknown integrity of the cylinder's service valve. If one determines that it must be moved, keep in mind the hazards due to valve expulsion can be reduced by pointing the end of the container in which the valve is placed away from yourself and others and toward the most safe direction", stated Asst. Fire Chief Jack Spurgeon.

Methamphetamine is a potent central nervous system stimulant. It is a synthetic drug that is created by using common household chemicals and items that can be purchased from local stores. Meth Labs can be found almost anywhere. Law enforcement agencies have seized labs in private residences, hotel rooms, abandoned buildings and houses, and vehicles. Some of the chemicals are highly volatile and may explode posing risk to the

individuals producing the drug and anyone in the surrounding area. Every pound of Methamphetamine produced leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste.

According to Asst. Fire Chief Jack Spurgeon, “If anyone has information or concerns about potential Meth Labs or exchanged tanks, please notify your Fire Department or Police Department. There is an obvious potential here for explosion and fire resulting in injury or even death.”

For more information on the propane tanks you can go to the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA).