

TAPE THIS TO YOUR FRIDGE DOOR

The October Propane Check

Check it while it's calm

What Walt had me check before sixty below. Most important first. Do it on a calm fall day, not the first cold night.

DO THESE WHILE IT'S CALM

- 1** ☐ **Walk out to your own tank and read the gauge yourself.**
Not your son's word, not the driver's. Lift the dome lid on a calm day; a flashlight helps.
- 2** ☐ **Call for a refill at 25 to 30 percent. I call at 30.**
The Minnesota Commerce Department's advice. Don't wait for the red.
- 3** ☐ **Get the tank filled in October, before the storms.**
After a winter storm, fuel trucks may not reach you for days.
- 4** ☐ **Keep a clear path to the tank, and keep the dome and regulator free of snow and ice.**
If ice ever plugs the little regulator vent, call your propane supplier right away.
- 5** ☐ **Know that deep cold shrinks what your tank can give.**
Propane stops boiling near 44 below. A fuller tank makes more gas in the cold.
- 6** ☐ **Have safe backup heat ready, and lay the fire before you need it.**
A wood stove that's been checked. Never your oven, grill or an open flame to heat the house.
- 7** ☐ **Plan for frozen pipes before the cold night.**
On the coldest nights, let a tap drip. To thaw: hair dryer, heating pad or hot towels. Never a torch or candle.
- 8** ☐ **Big flashlight by the door, your supplier's number by the phone.**
You won't want to hunt for either one at five in the morning.
- 9** ☐ **Check on your neighbor.**
Especially anyone living alone out at the end of a line.

25–30%

Call for a refill (I call at 30)

–44°F

Propane stops boiling

Days

Fuel trucks may not reach
you after a storm

–60°F

Tower, Minnesota, Feb. 2,
1996

Smell gas? Leave the house first, then call your propane supplier or 911 from outside.
Keep a working carbon monoxide alarm on every level.