BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA GREATER NIAGARA FRONTIER COUNCIL

POLICY ON USE OF CHEMICAL FUELS (LIQUID, GASEOUS, OR JELLIED)

POLICY

It is the policy of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, BSA that all Cub/Scout/Venture Scouting activities involving the use of liquid, gaseous, or jellied fuels be supervised by an adult who has completed the Liquid Fuels Training course.

BACKGROUND

For safety reasons, knowledgeable adult supervision must be provided when Scouts are involved in the storage of chemical fuels, the handling of chemical fuels in the filling of stoves or lanterns, or the lighting of chemical fuels.

There are three factors that influence the establishment of Scouting's policy on the use of fuel other than natural wood: (1) the basic purposes of Scouting and its camping program; (2) the protection from hazards of chemical fuels; (3) the necessity of safely adapting to local conditions and practices.

First, it is essential to Scouting's purpose that a boy learns and practices the skills of primitive living. He develops personal confidence, initiative, and preparations for life as he advances through the Scouting program.

Convenience is one of the joys of modern life but with it goes the necessity of precaution against many hazards. When any chemical fuel is used for cooking and lighting, it is the fuel which is dangerous – not the stove and lanterns.

In building a fire he needs to learn the care and use of tools; know about tinder, types of fuel and how to prepare it. The correct principles of building a fire to cook his food and warm his body, containing fire, and putting it out are essential for his training in camperaft, self reliance and preparedness.

The need for adapting to special circumstances, such as lack of natural wood for fuel or the regulations of specific areas where open fires are prohibited for safety or environmental reasons makes it necessary for Scouts and Scout leaders to learn the skills and safety procedures in using chemical fuel stoves.

- 1. Battery-operated lanterns and flashlights should be used by Scouts in camping activities, particularly in and around canvas and nylon tents. No chemical-fueled lantern or stove is to be used inside a tent.
- 2. Kerosene, white gas, or liquefied petroleum fuel lanterns may, when necessary, be used inside permanent buildings or for outdoor lighting. When used indoors there will be adequate ventilation. Strict adherence to the safety standards and instructions of the manufacturers in fueling and lighting such stoves and lanterns must be carried out under the supervision of a responsible and knowledgeable adult.
- 3. Both gasoline and kerosene shall be kept in well-marked approved containers (never in a glass container) and stored in a **ventilated locked box** at a safe distance (minimum 20 feet) from buildings and tents.

The use of liquid fuels for starting any type of fire is prohibited.

- 1. This includes damp wood, charcoal and ceremonial campfires. Solid-type starters are just as effective, are easier to store and carry, and are much safer to use for this purpose.
- 2. All types of space heaters that use chemical fuels consume oxygen and must only be used in well-ventilated areas. When used in cabins, camper-trucks, and recreational vehicles there is not only a fire danger but also lives can be lost from asphyxiation if not well ventilated. Use of charcoal burners indoors can be lethal in causing carbon monoxide poisoning.

GUIDELINES FOR SAFELY USING CHEMICAL STOVES AND LANTERNS

- 1. Use compressed or liquid gas stoves and/or lanterns only with knowledgeable adult supervision and in Scout facilities only where and when permitted.
- 2. Operate and maintain regularly according to manufacturer's instructions included with the stove or lantern.
- 3. Store fuel in approved containers and storage areas only with adult supervision. Keep all chemical fuel containers away from hot stoves and campfires store below 100°F.
- 4. Let hot stoves and lanterns cool before changing cylinders of compressed gases or refilling from bottles of liquid gas.
- 5. Refill liquid gas stoves and lanterns a safe distance from any flames, including other stoves, campfires and personal smoking substances. Commercial camp stove fuel should be used for safety and performance. Pour through a filter funnel. Recap both the device and the fuel container before igniting.
- 6. Never fuel a stove or lantern inside a cabin; always do this outdoors. Do not operate a stove or lantern in an unventilated structure. Provide at least two ventilation openings, one high and one low, to provide oxygen and exhaust for lethal gases. Never fuel, ignite or operate a stove or lantern in a tent.
- 7. Place the stove on a level, secure surface before operating. On snow, place insulated support under the stove to prevent melting and tipping.
- 8. Periodically check fittings on compressed gas stoves and on pressurized liquid gas stoves for leakage using a soap solution before lighting.
- 9. When lighting a stove keep fuel bottles and extra canisters well away. Do not hover over the stove when lighting it. Keep your head and body to one side. Open the stove valve quickly for two full turns and light carefully, with head, fingers, and hands to the side of the burner. Then adjust down.
- 10. Do not leave stove or lantern unattended.
- 11. Do not overload the stovetop with extra heavy pots or large frying pans. If pots over 2 quarts are necessary, set up a separate grill with legs to hold the pot and place stove under grill.
- 12. Bring empty fuel containers home for disposal. Do not place in or near fires. Empty fuel containers will explode if heated.