

Driving SAFETY

Driving With Propane

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Over the years, driving with propane has been a very hot topic. Even with exhaustive research conducted by the Recreational Vehicle Safety and Education Foundations, no documentation is available regarding state laws on the use of propane while driving. However, some specific areas do mandate that the propane system must be shut off such as tunnels and bridges. Specific areas such as the Washington Bridge in New



York and others do not allow vehicles with a propane device at all, even with the system shut down.

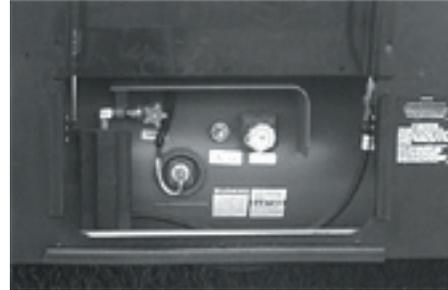
Most refrigerators require 120-volt AC power or propane as well as most coach heating systems. Therefore, these units require the propane system to



be turned on to operate while driving. Unfortunately, this also means propane is present throughout the rest of the unit. This creates a potentially dangerous condition should there be an accident or leak. Newer systems are equipped with an excess flow valve that shuts the line down if flow exceeds a certain pressure, therefore many RVers feel this device will shut the system down in case of a leak. While these devices are helpful, they are not 100% safe as a very small leak will not activate the valve. Also, once the valve is activated, propane is still in the line throughout the coach, and will still leak out.



According to the National Propane Association, and RVSEF, it is **RECOMMENDED TO SHUT THE PROPANE SYSTEM OFF WHILE DRIVING!**



So how do you keep the refrigerator cool? Refrigerators manufactured after 1995 will keep an internal temperature

of less than 40 degrees for eight hours in 100 degree F when the unit is turned off with minimal door opening. (Norcold documentation) Other aftermarket fans and 12-volt DC systems are also available to assist older coaches.



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