

Placer residents urged to clear propane tanks

Placer County officials are warning officials that snow loads on residential propane tanks are extreme and pose a risk of leaks and possible explosion.

In 2011, when similar snow loads were a concern, propane leaks in the Serene Lakes area were widespread, triggering evacuations and the disconnection of power to homes. One leak caused an explosion that completely destroyed a home.

“Snow loads on roofs and decks are a problem throughout the Sierra right now, and everyone should take care to clear those. But the loads on propane tanks are an especially serious concern,” Placer County Office of Emergency Services Manager John McEldowney said in a statement. “Residents should dig out and inspect their tanks as soon as they possibly can and call 911 if they smell any gas at all.”

Access to all types of propane tanks should be cleared, including underground, sheltered and stand-alone tanks. Residents should contact the Placer County Department of Environmental Health office in Tahoe City at 530.581.6240 before digging into the ground.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*