



For Immediate Release

May 20, 2015

Contacts:

Christine Flowers, 916-454-9067 or christine@CalPSC.org

Josh Simpson, 925-350-3442 or jsimpson@kampspropane.com

**IT'S CAMPING SEASON! THERE'S A NEW WAY TO SAVE
MONEY AND HASSLE**

Refuel Your Summer Fun and Be Fire Safe with Refillable One-Pound Propane Cylinders

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Memorial Day is the official beginning of summer camping season when families and friends gather around camp fires and fire up their camp stoves. This year is different for two reasons:

1. Due to drought, many state and national parks have already banned the use of open fires including using wood or charcoal in fire pits and grills and informing the public they can only use camping stoves.
2. Now there is a refillable option for small propane cylinders used to fuel many small camping stoves, portable grills, lanterns, and portable heaters.

A new campaign, Refuel Your Fun, is encouraging Californians to switch from the traditional one-pound disposable propane cylinders to the new refillable cylinders which are a smart alternative used to fuel small camping stoves, portables grills and lanterns. Using refillable propane cylinders saves consumers and parks money and hassle finding disposal options while protecting the environment. The refillables are even more important this year due to the record-breaking drought. Many parks are restricting or prohibiting wood or charcoal fires this season. Using refillables saves money and hassle for you and the parks because disposal options are expensive and inconvenient.

“Each year, more than 4 million disposable propane cylinders are purchased and thrown away in California.” said Christine Flowers, Program Manager of the California Product Stewardship Council who developed the partnerships that lead to the

development of the Refuel Your Fun campaign. “Some of these cylinders are properly recycled, but many end up in our landfills.”

Disposable gas cylinders have a hidden cost to parks when they are left behind by visitors. “In 2014 Sequoia & King Canyon National Park spent \$2,656 for cylinder recycling. I anticipate that with the bans of fires starting today for the season in these parks there will be an increase in the use of camping stoves.” Josh Simpson, Director of Marketing for Kamps Propane, one of the Refuel Your Fun campaign partners.

For those campers using disposable one-pound propane cylinders the new refillable cylinders have the same type of valve and work exactly the same, except they can be professionally refilled and reused over and over again for up to 12 years. A simple refill will cost the consumer approximately \$2.25, as there’s no charge for the container, just the gas and filling service. The opposite is true for disposables which are costly...not only to the environment but to the pocketbook as well. When you buy a disposable one-pound gas cylinder 80% of the purchase price is for the packaging which is discarded after the gas is used.

You can purchase, refill or exchange refillable one-pound propane cylinders at these participating retailers in Santa Cruz County:

Freedom Ace Hardware (Sell, Exchange and Refill)
1820 Freedom Boulevard Freedom, CA 95019 831-724-4740
Ace Hardware/Watsonville (Sell, Exchange and Refill)
451 Main Street Watsonville, CA 95076 831-724-4749
Ace Hardware of Watsonville (Sell, Exchange and Refill)
1056 East Lake Avenue Watsonville, CA 95076 831-724-4795

For more information about the statewide Refuel Your Fun campaign and for other participating locations visit www.refuelyourfun.org.

###

ReFuel Your Fun was developed by local government agencies and other partners through a grant from CalRecycle. Refuel Your Fun is administered by the California Product Stewardship Council.