

Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services
CODE INTERPRETATION

The California Fire Code adopted by reference by the Sonoma County code states in CFC §104.1 that the Fire Code Official has the authority to render interpretations of the code in order to clarify the application of the provisions.

Date Issued	September 16, 2008	By:	Robert MacIntyre
Topic	Propane Cylinders Inside Storage Structures		
Code Section(s)	CFC §3801.1; NFPA-58 3.2.2.1		
Requested by	Sonoma County PRMD		

Are liquefied propane gas containers allowed to be completely contained within a wood frame structure?

The California Fire Code adopted by reference by the Sonoma County code states in CFC §3801.1 that the storage and handling of LP-gas and the installation and maintenance of related equipment shall comply with NFPA 58 and be subject to the approval of the fire code official.

NFPA-58 3.2.2.1 states “LP-Gas containers shall be located outside of buildings.”

The total enclosure of a liquefied propane storage cylinder within a type V (wood frame – combustible) structure is not permitted.

However, a visual screen of limited combustibility with substantial low-level venting surrounding an easily accessible and properly installed LPG cylinder in a residential setting may be allowed.