

Yolo County residents can get free reusable propane cylinders

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As families head out for Memorial Day Weekend and the beginning of summer, Yolo County would like to remind campers and tailgaters to “Refuel Your Fun” by using reusable propane canisters instead of disposables.

Single-use, disposable, 1-pound propane gas cylinders are hazardous waste and can be dangerous if not disposed of properly. These popular canisters are widely used to power a variety of devices including camping stoves, portable heaters, lanterns, portable showers, boat engines, scooters and lawn-care equipment.

Yosemite National Park staff found so many cylinders in the trash they started a collection program to ensure they are properly managed as hazardous waste. The Joshua Tree National Park disposes more than 700 unwanted 1-pound cylinders per week from the park campgrounds.

The problem is not limited to parks and campgrounds. Cities and counties also see costs and dangers associated with the cylinders. In 2015 and again in 2017, the city of Sunnyvale experienced explosions and baler fires likely caused by disposable propane gas cylinders. These types of incidents can injure or kill workers and damage expensive waste processing equipment.

The good news for Yolo County residents is it is free and easy to properly dispose of single-use propane cylinders. Yolo County residents may take their empty 1-pound cylinders to the Yolo County Household Hazardous Waste Facility from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday for free disposal.

The average cost of single-use cylinders is \$1.99 to \$5.99 each, but it costs parks and local government \$2 to \$15 per cylinder to dispose of these hazardous wastes. Yolo County, working with the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland, received a CalRecycle grant to educate residents on safely handling these cylinders and considering reusables to save money and reduce hazardous waste.

Yolo County residents have an opportunity to get a free reusable 1-pound propane cylinder when they exchange their empty single-use cylinder or take a pledge at an upcoming exchange event from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Yolo County Central Landfill.

Residents may instead fill out an online questionnaire for a chance to have a free cylinder mailed to them.

For more information, visit www.RefuelYourFun.org. Free cylinders are limited to one per household, while supplies last.

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