

A furnace is a consumer's friend when the outside temperature gets colder. Unfortunately though, cold is an enemy of LP gas. The BTU capacity of LP per volume decreases as the outside temperature gets colder. Therefore, based on how full the LP tanks are, the ambient temperature outside and how many BTU's the furnace is, there may not be enough gas to sustain ignition on the furnace.

Using the charts below, let's say that a 40,000 BTU furnace won't fire up, and we also know that the 65 lb. LP bottle on the RV is 40% full and it is 0 degrees F. outside. One's first thought might be that the burner or valve is bad. However, if we use the chart, the vaporization capacity of the tank in these conditions is only 38,500 BTU's. The furnace is not going to perform very well because there is insufficient BTU capacity in the tank.

If you were to put an insulated fire resistant blanket over the tanks and a 75 watt light bulb under that, you would probably raise the temperature of the bottles 10-20 degrees and almost double the BTU capacity of the tank. This in turn would allow the furnace to operate properly. So keep in mind that a furnace problem is not always a component problem.

20 lb. Bottle (*30 lb. bottle multiply X 1.40)

% Full	+20°	0°	-5°	-10°	-15°
60%	36,000	18,000	12,750	8,500	4,250
50%	32,400	16,200	12,150	8,100	4,050
40%	28,800	14,400	11,400	7,600	3,800
30%	25,200	12,600	10,450	7,300	3,150
20%	21,600	10,800	8,100	5,400	2,700
10%	16,200	8,100	6,075	4,050	2,025

65 lb. Under Mtd. LP Gas Tank BTU available at

% Full	+20°	0°	-5°	-10°	-15°
60%	95,600	47,800	36,000	23,900	12,100
50%	86,000	43,000	32,250	21,500	11,750
40%	77,000	38,500	29,250	19,250	9,625
30%	68,000	34,000	25,500	17,000	8,500
20%	58,000	29,000	21,750	14,500	7,250
10%	43,200	21,600	16,200	10,800	5,400