

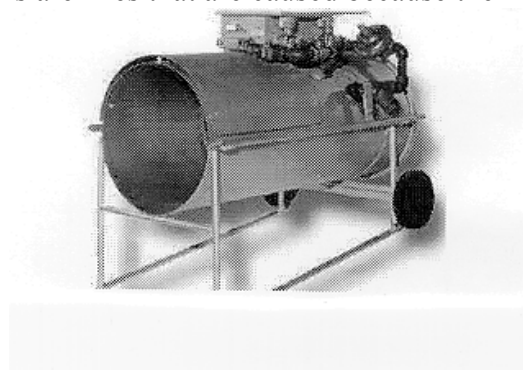
CUSTOMER FOCUS ON LOSS CONTROL

NUMBER 63

LP Gas Heaters in Construction

The LPG gas portable type heater is a common temporary heating device used in construction. They are versatile and can be used to provide a temporary controllable heat source. Improperly used, however, they can cause accidents.

The most common accidents involving portable heaters are fires that are caused because the heater was placed near combustibles, or was used in the presence of solvents and/or paints. Since this unit consumes air/fuel, it can, if used improperly cause injuries from oxygen deficiency and carbon monoxide poisoning. Improper placement of the heater near walkways or work areas can result in burns from accidental contact. Follow these helpful hints to use LPG gas portable heaters safely:



- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for horizontal distance to combustibles.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of vertical clearance from overhead combustibles.
- Watch out for hot surfaces. Do not touch the metal parts during operation.
- Follow instructions when lighting and shutting down. Do not take shortcuts.
- After lighting, check for correct operation; if the unit malfunctions, shut it down immediately.
- While the unit is in use, check it periodically to make sure it is operating correctly.
- Use of the unit in a confined space can result in oxygen deficiency. Ensure ample fresh air.
- When fueling or changing LP tanks, always check for leaks.
- If the area around the tank or heater smells of burnt cabbage, check for gas leaks.
- LP gas is heavier than air (vapor density = 1.56 @ 0°C). Leaks settle in low areas.
- LP gas cylinders not in use must be stored outside the building in a secure area.
- Always follow manufacturers' instructions and warnings.

Temporary heaters are valuable tools in cold climates in that they enable construction to progress even during cold weather. However, careless or thoughtless use can make them deadly.

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