

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

PROPANE HEATERS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

The Safe Work Practice for Propane, in addition to the following guidelines, must be observed when using temporary heaters.

General: Improper use of propane heaters can result in serious injury, fire and explosion hazards, carbon monoxide poisoning, burns and electrical shock.

1. Do not use in living/sleeping quarters.
2. Wear adequate PPE.
3. Operators must be trained and qualified.
4. Operate on a stable, level surface. Provide minimum clearance from normal combustible materials as follows:
 - Sides 3 feet
 - Rear 3 feet
 - Outlet (in front) 10 feet
 - Top 6 feet
 - From fuel container 6 feet
5. Keep temperature of propane below 100 degrees F.
6. Do not move, handle or service heater while hot, burning or connected to a power supply.
7. Do not use the duct work.
8. Visually inspect the hose assembly prior to use. If cut, replace before using the heater.
9. Keep the area where the heater is being used clear and free of combustible materials, gasoline and other flammable vapors and liquids.
10. Never light the heater or smoke in areas where there is a gas odor.
11. Always turn off the gas supply at the cylinder when not in use.
12. Propane cylinders have left hand threads. When making the connection and to remove the fitting – do not use pliers.
13. If gas flow is interrupted and heater flame is extinguished, shut off gas and wait 1-5 minutes or until gas clears away before relighting.
14. If at any time gas is detectable, discontinue operation of the heater until the source of the gas odor has been located and corrected.
15. If it is necessary to check for gas leaks, use soapy water only – ***never use an open flame.***
16. Use a ground fault circuit interrupter where required.