

# Heaters

Week Number 42 (October 15 - 21) 2017 Edition

## Overview

*Temporary heating devices are essential equipment during the winter months of the year, when working on construction sites can be very cold. You might use temporary heating devices such as circulating and radiant room heaters, LP-Gas heaters, or others. However, the use of temporary heating comes with several hazards, including the hazards of fire, fumes from fuels, the consumption of oxygen, and burn/heat injury hazards.*

## For Discussion

OSHA has several regulations that should be observed when using temporary heating devices:

- Ensure that the area is well ventilated with enough fresh air.
- Make sure that chimney connectors have at least 18 inches of clearance around them. The sides and rear of circulating room heaters must have 12 inches of clearance, while the sides and rear of a radiant room heater must have 36 inches of clearance.
- Do not set heaters on wood floors. Rather, set them on insulating material or 1-inch concrete.
- Located heaters at least 10 feet from tarps, canvas, or other coverings to prevent combustion.
- Set heaters horizontally level when in use.
- In Minnesota, when portable toilets are not placed inside of heated buildings, provisions should be made for heating the portable toilet to a minimum of heat that can be emitted from the installation of a 1,300-watt heater or other type equivalent heater. At a minimum this is expected to be from November 1 to March 15.
- Do not use solid fuel salamanders in buildings or on scaffolds.
- Flammable liquid-fired heaters should be equipped with a primary safety control to stop the flow of fuel in the event of flame failure.

## Questions

1. How much space should be cleared around a temporary heater?
2. How will you handle temporary heaters differently after reviewing these safety requirements?