

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY LINKS AND QR CODES WINTER (TEMPORARY) HEAT SAFETY

The following information was developed by the Niagara, Regional Labour Management Health & Safety Committees with the intent of providing information on Occupational Health and Safety. The links and QR Codes can be opened or shared by most mobile devices. It is important to note that this document is for information purposes only and does not constitute or intend to constitute, legal advice or service.

DESCRIPTION

Winter (Temporary) Heat Safety

Temporary heaters can be dangerous – the risk of explosion, fire, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and lack of fresh air need to be controlled.

When using heaters and other fuel-burning equipment (including vehicles) in an enclosed space, take these precautions:

- Whenever possible, use electric heaters or heaters that vent by products outdoors to eliminate the risk of CO poisoning.
- Make sure the area is well ventilated by keeping the doors and windows open.
- Check CO levels regularly with a gas detector.
- If possible, use exhaust hoses or fans to draw the exhaust out of the work area.
- Make sure heaters and other fuel- -burning equipment are in good condition.

INFORMATION – LINKS AND QR CODES

Electric heaters are not as common as fuel or gas-fired heaters. An electric heater is useful when working in a closed space with limited fresh air.

Liquid fuel heaters (oil, diesel and kerosene) Some liquid-fueled heaters release exhaust fumes with an oily smell. This can be unpleasant for workers. A solution is to vent the combustion by-products outdoors.

Propane and natural gas Both gases are highly flammable and explosive. You need to take precautions when storing, handling, or using these gases. Fuel-fired equipment is a source of CO. Even in small doses, CO can kill you. It's a clear, colourless gas that you can't smell or taste. Ventilation is necessary when using heaters powered by liquid fuel or compressed gas. Note: You must have a record of training (ROT) recognized by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) before you can hook up and light a propane-fired heater.

The following links and QR Codes contain useful information:

IHSA Safety Talk – Heaters

https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/heaters.pdf



HSA Safety Talk - Carbon Monoxide

https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/carbon_monoxide.pdf



IHSA Health and Safety Manual - Propane

https://www.ihsa.ca/rtf/health_safety_manual/pdfs/hazards/Propane.pdf



Please note:

- Always follow the heater manufacturer's installation and operating instructions and have fire extinguisher (minimum 4A40BC) or other firefighting apparatus available.
- If the heater is in a confined or low-lying area, escaped gas can accumulate. Never attempt to relight. Notify a supervisor or certified operator.

A publication of the Niagara Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee in partnership with the Infrastructure Health & Safety Association