

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic C107: Portable Heaters

**Introduction:** During cold weather portable heaters are used to keep job sites warm. Everyone works more efficiently and accurately when temperatures are comfortable. Portable heaters can be either electric or gas fueled and are an essential tool for the work site to increase productivity and keep a project on schedule.

However, portable and stand-alone heaters are a significant fire hazard and must be dealt with as a safety concern before any benefit can be realized. Here are some do and don't guidelines to follow for safe heater operation:

**Guidelines To Do:**

- Do maintain at least an eleven foot clearance between the portable heater and any combustible objects including walls and curtains.
- Do read the owner's manual before operating a portable heater and follow the instructions.
- Do store fuel tanks in a proper manner and in a secure place.
- Do disconnect the portable heater while repairs are being made.
- Do keep a fire extinguisher near every heating unit.
- Do ensure that there is no contact with material such as clothes or plastics on the portable heater coils. This will start a fire instantly.
- Do use only portable heaters that are in good operating condition.
- Do plug portable heaters into properly grounded outlets and ensure that the circuit will not be overloaded by the heater.
- Do make sure that any extension cord you're using is capable of handling the current required by the heater.
- Do perform a pre-operational check for damaged parts, coils, knobs, and legs. Any broken part should be fixed immediately.
- Place the portable heater on solid footing. Never put a portable heater on a table, chair, pallet, stair step, or any location where the heater may fall over, or be inadvertently knocked over.

Don't put a portable heater on a table, chair, pallet, stair-step or any location where it may fall off or be knocked over.

**Guidelines Not to Do:**

- Do not move a portable heater or add fuel while it is turned on or hot. If your portable heater uses liquid fuel, allow it to cool down and then move it to a vented area to refuel.
- Do not operate a portable heater without good ventilation and fresh air. Operating a heater without proper ventilation could result in a build-up of carbon-monoxide.
- Do not place a fan in front of the portable heater for faster heat circulation; this may cause the fan to melt and start a fire.
- Do not make any type of deflector or device to direct the air flow from a heater. The material you use could catch fire or create a burn hazard.
- Do not leave a portable heater unattended while in operation.
- Do not use a portable heater close to lumber, wood chips, or other types of flammable material.
- Do not stand on a portable heater.
- Do not touch or come into contact with the coils while the heater is on or cooling.
- Do not leave the power or extension cords exposed to the intense heat generated by the portable heater.
- Do not use a portable heater if you have not read the operations manual or are unsure of safe operation.

**Conclusion:** Fuel gases such as propane are heavy and tend to settle into low areas like drains, pits, basements and stairwells. If a leak occurs flames and sparks can ignite these trapped gases and cause a fire or explosion. Think and use these guidelines when using a portable heater at the job site.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.