

Lake County Contractors Association

Safety News

January, 1999

Temporary Construction Heating

Temporary heaters, fueled by liquefied petroleum gas, or natural gas, are widely used in the construction industry. The following are some basic rules to protect against some potential hazards.

Only units "listed" or "approved" by nationally recognized testing agencies (i.e. Factory Mutual, Underwriter's Laboratories, Bureau Mines, etc.) should be used on job sites.

Do not operate a heater in an unventilated area. Make sure there is sufficient air flow, both for combustion and to prevent potentially harmful levels of carbon monoxide from accumulating.

Use only heaters equipped with 100% shut off valves.

Repairs to equipment must be made only by qualified gas technicians.

Store and use LP cylinders in an upright position with protective collars in place.

Full or empty cylinders not in use should be stored at ground level and protected against damage or tampering.

Make sure cylinder valves are closed and protective caps or collars are in place.

Maximum cylinder size should be 100 pounds of LP gas.

Do not connect more than three 100 pound cylinders of LP gas to one manifold inside a building.

If more than one manifold is required, separate manifolds by at least 20 feet.

Check all cylinder connections for leaks with a suitable leak detector solution.

Make sure cylinders are located or secured to prevent tipping. The effects of thawing of ice or frozen ground should be anticipated.

Remember that LP gas is heavier than air and can accumulate in lower levels if a leak occurs.

Natural gas heaters should be equipped with an automatic flame control device which will shut off the gas supply if the flame or pilot is extinguished.

Heaters left in unoccupied areas or buildings should be checked on a regular basis.

When the job is complete, and prior to shutting off the gas heater, the gas should be turned off at the cylinder valve so that the hose or piping is drained.

These useful rules do, however, present some severe hazards and should be used carefully by qualified personnel.

Work safely! Be considerate and aware of those people working with you and around you.

LCCA Safety Award - Applications for LCCA's 1998 Safety Awards were sent to Contractor Members in November. If you have not received yours, just call the LCCA Office and we will get you a copy. Remember, you do not need to be "perfect" to apply or be recognized. We do expect no fatalities during the year. Since your results are measured against national averages, you are not competing with other members, but rather your results are judged against all contractors across the country.

Completed applications are due into the LCCA Office no later than the end of January. Awards will be presented at the February Membership Meeting.

OSHA 200 Annual Posting - The OSHA 200 form, with the injured employees names and other identifying dates and locations removed, must be posted during the month of February each year at every work site of the employer. **In addition, it must be kept for 5 years for inspection** by OSHA, union representatives and injured employees.

The data from the log may also be requested by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for compilation of the annual survey of illnesses and injuries in industry.

Remember: The OSHA 200 form must be completed, posted and retained even if you had no recordable incidents!

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning On The Job - Carbon monoxide poisoning can slow down your reflexes, affect your vision and judgment, cause headaches, nausea and ultimately kill you. What makes carbon monoxide so dangerous is that it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating. It can kill you without ever being detected by any of your senses. Carbon monoxide is an asphyxiate. It starves your body of oxygen by combining directly with the blood in your body so the blood can't carry oxygen. Only 50 parts of CO per million parts of air are necessary for carbon monoxide poisoning. Levels higher than that have been measured in congested tunnels and underpasses.

Some sources of carbon monoxide on a construction site are:

Gasoline powered tools such as gas cut off saws.

Gasoline powered generators or compressors.

Gasoline powered trucks or equipment such as concrete trucks, trowels, screeds, bobcats, spreaders, graders, etc.

Space heaters fueled by natural gas, propane, kerosene, fuel oil, etc.

Improperly installed furnaces or appliances.

Some things that you can do to help reduce the chance of carbon monoxide poisoning on the job site:

Never use any gas powered tools, equipment or vehicles in a confined space.

Substitute electric tools, equipment, and trucks, for gas powered ones when you must work inside a confined space.

Place generators and compressors safely outside the building and run extension cords or air hoses into the building.

If gas powered tools, equipment or trucks must be used in partially enclosed areas, sufficient ventilation should be provided to maintain the health and safety of workers. Where natural means of fresh air supply is inadequate, mechanical ventilation should be provided. Perform air quality testing to monitor carbon monoxide levels.

Be aware of others in the building using gas-powered tools or equipment. The deadly carbon monoxide they are producing could end up in your lungs, and kill you!

Sign Up Now For 1999 Training - This year we will be holding OSHA 10-Hour and First Aid classes every month throughout the year. And for members who need 10-Hour training for 10 or more employees, or the First Aid course for 8-10 people, LCCA will schedule the course anywhere you wish. We will provide instructor, materials, equipment -- everything except a place and students and we might be able to help with those as well."

Look beyond your field employees for training. Everyone in every office should have the First Aid/CPR course. You never know when it will be you that has a heart attack. Immediate CPR may make the difference between living and your spouse collecting your life insurance.

In addition to OSHA 10-Hour and First Aid Courses, we will be offering training on Fall Protection, Scaffold Safety, Silica Hazard Awareness, Respiratory Protection and Power Line Safety.

A copy of the registration form covering January & February is enclosed for your information. Please be sure to make copies of the form and submit a separate form for each course you are interested in.

"Spotlight on Safety" Seminar Update – To get the 1999 construction season off to a safe start, the LCCA Safety Committee has put together a half day program for Safety Directors and other project and office managers. The program will highlight the ever-changing OSHA landscape and provide tips to avoid OSHA's "hot buttons."

The seminar will be held on Thursday, January 28, 1999 at the Ramada Inn Waukegan located at 200 N. Greenbay Road in Waukegan and begin at Noon with lunch. The tentative program includes:

Noon - Lunch

12:30 p.m. Keynote speaker – Bob Woodward, SEE, Inc.,
1:00 p.m. OSHA Update – "Safety Mike" Barnhart, Michael Barnhart & Associates
1:30 p.m. Safety Training – Gary Dowty, Lake County Contractors Association
2:00 p.m. Respiratory Protection – John Dimos
2:45 p.m. Break
3:15 p.m. Wall Bracing – Jim O'Connor, Mason Contractors Association and Mike Barnhart
3:45 p.m. Fall Protection – Bob Woodward, SEE, Inc.
4:15 p.m. Questions & Answers

The cost is only \$35 per person and includes lunch and an appropriate gift for those in attendance. **To make your reservation, use the Safety Training Registration form or call Gloria at the LCCA Office.**

Safety News is published by the Lake County Contractors Association's Safety Committee, 1312 Washington St., Waukegan, IL – Mike Barnhart, Chairman, Gary L. Dowty, Executive Vice President. Many articles are submitted for publication and while every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the information, LCCA cannot be held liable for any information presented.