

# Did You Know...

## TEMPORARY HEATERS

Temporary heaters are dangerous if you don't control the risks of explosion, fire, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and lack of fresh air. Many of the hazards using temporary heaters depend on how they're powered.

**Electric Heaters:** are not as common as fuel or gas fired heaters. They're used where heated air must be free of combustion by-products such as carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). An electric heater is useful while working in a closed space with limited fresh air.

**Liquid Fuel Heaters:** (oil and kerosene) provide an economical source of heat. But you need a large storage tank on site for a constant supply of fuel. Some liquid-fueled heaters release exhaust fumes with an oily smell. This can be unpleasant for workers. A solution to this is to vent the combustion by-products outdoors. This is sometimes done to heat the air over new concrete in the winter.

**Propane and Natural Gas Heaters:** provide an economical supply of heat. The equipment is lightweight and easy to move around on site. However, 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 taste or smell. Ventilation is necessary when using heaters powered by liquid fuel or compressed gas.

### Controls

- Choose an indirect-fired heater instead of a direct-fired heater when you want to heat an enclosed space. (An indirect-fired heater vents combustion by-products outdoors while ducting heats air indoors. A direct-fired heater (such as an open-flame or closed-flame heater) releases combustion by products into the heated area.
- Only competent workers may operate a propane, gas or oil heater.
- Place the heater on firm, level surfaces to prevent tip over and do not block the openings used for ventilation. Store combustible/flammable materials away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has a supply of fresh air to operate safely and efficiently, and to prevent a build up of CO.
- Test heated areas for presence of CO.

**Nobody Gets Hurt, Today or Tomorrow**

