



SITE SAFETY MEETING - TOOL BOX TALK

Propane Tanks & LP Gas Heaters in Construction

PROPANE GAS is a liquid petroleum gas that is frequently used on the construction site as an energy source for temporary heat.

In the pressurized storage container, it exists as a liquid and a gas. Since the outside air temperature is well above the boiling point (-42.5°C) of the liquid, the liquid boils inside the tank when in use and converts to a gas.

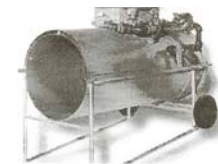


Follow these general guidelines when handling or using propane tanks:

- Always store propane outside of the building.
- Transport, store, use, and secure propane cylinders in the upright position (unless they are specifically designed for horizontal use).
- Do not allow liquid propane to contact the cylinder relief valve. Liquid escaping through this valve will release large volumes of gas. Too much gas will be fed to the device being fueled if the valve is open and the cylinder is on its side. Large amounts of gas will escape from a cylinder if it falls over and the valve is damaged. Both situations could result in fire or explosion
- Keep heaters at least six feet away from the tank.
- Ensure that all flexible piping is approved and 250 psig rated.
- Avoid physical damage to the tanks.
- Never weld on the tanks or expose them to open flame.
- In vehicle traffic, protect the tanks and plumbing from contact.
- Always store empty cylinders secured and upright.
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Always use common sense when handling and using LP gas cylinders and attached devices.

PORTABLE LPG GAS HEATERS are common temporary heating device used in construction. They are versatile and can be used to provide a temporary controllable heat source. Improperly used, however, they can cause serious accidents.



The most common accidents involving portable heaters are fires that are caused because the heater was placed near combustibles, or was used in the presence of solvents and/or paints.

Since this unit consumes air/fuel, it can, if used improperly cause injuries from oxygen deficiency and carbon monoxide poisoning. Improper placement of the heater near walkways or work areas can result in burns from accidental contact.

- Follow these helpful hints to use LPG gas portable heaters safely:
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for horizontal distance to combustibles.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of vertical clearance from overhead combustibles.
- Watch out for hot surfaces. Do not touch the metal parts during operation.
- Follow instructions when lighting and shutting down. Do not take shortcuts.
- After lighting, check for correct operation; if the unit malfunctions, shut it down immediately.
- While the unit is in use, check it periodically to make sure it is operating correctly.
- Use of the unit in a confined space can result in oxygen deficiency. Ensure ample fresh air.
- When fueling or changing LP tanks, always check for leaks.
- If the area around the tank or heater smells of burnt cabbage, check for gas leaks.
- LP gas is heavier than air (vapor density = 1.56 @ 0°C). Leaks settle in low areas.
- LP gas cylinders not in use must be stored outside the building in a secure area.
- Always follow manufacturers' instructions and warnings.

Temporary heaters are valuable tools in cold climates in that they enable construction to progress even during cold weather. However, careless or thoughtless use can make them deadly.

Questions to start discussion

1. Where and how must propane tanks be stored when full? When Empty?
2. How and where should Propane Tanks be set up for use?
3. How far away from the heater should LPG tanks be set up? How far from combustible materials?
4. What are the most common accidents when using LPG heaters?
5. What should you provide for when operating heaters in confined areas?
6. Is LP gas lighter or heavier than air? Where will leaks settle? What does LPG smell like?

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Meeting Notes:

Employee Comments / Concerns: _____

Other Safety issues to be addressed on the job: _____

Training Record: Date: _____ Jobsite: _____ By: _____ Title: _____

Employee Name	Emp #	Signature	Employee Name	Emp #	Signature
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Tool Box Talks are employee safety meetings designed to serve as 15 minute on-site training sessions focused on key topics relative to your work.

Site superintendents or foremen are responsible for holding meetings each week usually during a morning break. This important segment of your general safety program encourages open discussion on the topic of the week and allows employees to share their experiences about accidents and safe or unsafe work practices. Recordkeeping is mandatory and all involved must sign off on each session.

Topics for your company could include: electrical safety, excavation and trenching safety, fall protection, scaffold safety, stairway and ladder safety, hazard communication, fire safety, personal protective equipment, tool safety, materials handling, etc.

Sample Tool Box Talks are provided compliments of the Safety Committee of the Hartford County Homebuilders Association. For more information on Tool Box Talks contact The HBA office 860 563-4212. *Tool Box Safety Talks* can be purchased from the National Association of Homebuilders 1-800 368-5242, www.nahb.com or may be available through your business insurance provider.

BUILD SAFELY – THINK SAFETY