

Temporary heating devices are essential equipment during the winter months of the year, when working on construction sites can get very uncomfortable and cold. You may use temporary heating devices like circulating and radiant room heaters, LP-Gas heaters, or other types of temporary heating devices to make the temperature more comfortable and acceptable to work in, making you more efficient and effective on the job site. However, the use of temporary heating devices comes with several hazards, including the hazards of fire, fumes from fuels, the consumption of oxygen, and burn/heat injury hazards.

OSHA's regulations require that you do the following when using temporary heating devices:

1. Naturally or mechanically ventilate the area adequately by supplying fresh air in sufficient quantities to maintain your own and other workmen's health and safety;
2. Provide sufficient clearance around temporary heating devices and combustible materials so as not to cause a fire hazard (not less than the amount shown in the table unless otherwise permitted by the manufacturer's specifications).

Heating appliances	Minimum clearance, (inches)		
	Sides	Rear	Chimney connector
Room heater, circulating type	12	12	18
Room heater, radiant type	36	36	18

3. Do not set heaters not suitable for use on wood floors directly upon them or other combustible materials. When such heaters are used, rest them on suitable heat insulating material or at least 1-inch concrete, or equivalent. The insulating material should extend beyond the heater 2 feet or more in all directions.
4. When using heaters in the vicinity of combustible tarpaulins, canvas, or similar coverings, locate them at least 10 feet from the coverings. The coverings should be securely fastened to prevent ignition or upsetting of the heater due to wind action on the covering or other material.
5. Set heaters horizontally level when in use, unless otherwise permitted by the manufacturer's markings.
6. Do not use solid fuel salamanders in buildings or on scaffolds.
7. Equip flammable liquid-fired heaters with a primary safety control to stop the flow of fuel in the event of flame failure. Barometric or gravity oil feed is not a primary safety control.
8. Use heaters designed for barometric or gravity oil feed only with the integral tanks. Heaters specifically designed and approved for use with separate supply tanks may be directly connected for gravity feed, or an automatic pump, from a supply tank.



This document provides general information about a safety and health topic and is only intended for use in facilitating discussions with employees in safety meetings. It does not address all hazards, OSHA or local requirements related to the topic or accompanying photograph. This document cannot be relied on to determine whether a site specific situation meets all safety and health requirements. Assurance Safety Consulting is not responsible for any health and safety violation or injury at a job site.