



Informational Bulletin
From the Office of the Fire Marshal

Temporary Heating for Construction Projects

Construction projects are often in need of deploying temporary heat. Energy sources available are typically:

- Electrical
- Propane (LPG)
- Natural Gas

There are pros and cons for each of these energy sources, but regardless of which source is utilized they must be installed and utilized in accordance with applicable codes and standards.

- All heating equipment must be listed for its intended use.
- Supervision must be maintained at all times a heater is operating.
- Protective barriers are required around heaters

Permits must be obtained prior to any installations and inspections completed prior to energizing any equipment:

- Mechanical permit for temporary heating equipment and associated gas piping
- Fire permit for propane (LPG) tanks
- Right-of-way permits for utilities that extend beyond the property line
- Electrical permit for any wiring associated with the temporary heating

Electrical

An electrical permit and inspection through the Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L & I) is required

Propane (LPG)

Tanks must be located outside of the building, cannot be located on top of any portion of a building and are a sufficient

distance from property lines, the building and between tanks in accordance with International Fire Code (IFC) section 6104.

Note: In-fill sites and congested construction sites are not good candidates for the use of Propane (LPG)



To utilize propane (LPG) on a construction site:

- Tanks must be placed on stable ground.
- Tanks must be located and sufficiently protected to prevent impact by construction vehicles. Temporary barriers are acceptable at construction sites.
- Combustible material must not be stored within 10 feet of the tank.

Natural Gas

In order to utilize natural gas on a construction site:

- The building must be completed to a point that the gas meter can be secured to the building
- Discuss your gas demand requirements with Northwest Natural Gas (NWN) so that they can extend the appropriately sized lateral and meter.

Additional Site Security

- Assign supervisory security responsibilities and encourage security awareness among all workers. Establish contact with management of neighboring properties and encourage them to report suspicious activities.



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- Secure the site perimeter with proper fencing as a first line of defense and maintain a clear zone adjacent to fencing.
- Light up the job site to deter vandalism.
- Ask employees and subcontractors to also take responsibility for a secure site and to immediately report any incidents of theft or vandalism.
- Consider using security guards and have them patrol the site. Provide them with a means of communication.
- Consider installing a video monitoring system to capture vehicle traffic entering and exiting the site.

For Additional Information

- International Fire Code, Chapter 33 – Fire Safety During Construction & Demolition
iccsafe.org

- NFPA 241 (select “Free Access”) - Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations
nfpa.org

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