



Temporary Gas Heaters and LP Tanks During Construction Guidelines

Version 2024-11-20

This Guideline is for Temporary Gas Heaters used during construction with LP Tanks with an aggregate capacity of 500 Gallons or more.

Temporary Gas Heaters with LP Tanks are very efficient in providing temporary heat on job sites. This guideline provides general requirements for the safe installation of heaters during the winter season. For additional information, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (703) 792-6360 or the Construction Inspection Office at (703) 792-7006.

The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC), Chapter 33, Fire Safety During Construction and Demolition, and Chapter 61, Liquefied Petroleum Gases, require a Fire Operational Permit for liquefied petroleum installations. For installation of temporary gas heating systems with LP Tanks with an aggregate capacity of 500 Gallons or more, the Fire Operational Permit also includes the issuance and approval of a Storage Tank Permit (UGS), Gas Permit (GAS), and Electrical Permit (ELE) by the Building Development Division.

1. Permits Required - A Fire Operational Permit (FOP) shall require the following additional permits:

- Storage Tank Permit (UGS) - Propane Tanks
- Gas Permit (GAS) - Gas Heaters and Piping
- Electrical Permit (Generator/Temporary Wiring)

2. General Guidelines (Not All Inclusive)

- Temporary devices shall be listed and labeled in accordance with the Codes. Installation, maintenance, and use shall be according to the terms of the listing.
- LP Tanks (i.e., cylinders) shall be secured.
- The gas piping, including valves and fittings, shall be adequately protected to prevent tampering, impact damage, and damage from vibration.
- Refueling of liquid fuel shall be conducted when the unit is cooled.
- Clearance from combustibles shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations noted on the equipment label. Always maintain a minimum distance of at least three feet from any combustible materials and observe an overhead clearance of at least six feet to prevent fires.
- When in operation, temporary heating equipment shall be fixed in place and protected from damage, dislodgement, or overturning, according to the manufacturer's instructions.



- These temporary heating devices shall be **supervised and maintained by competent personnel.**
- LP Tanks shall be stored within a suitable enclosure or otherwise protected against tampering. Vehicle impact protection shall be provided as required.

If the use of the temporary heaters is found unattended by Fire Department personnel or the Fire Marshal's Office, the temporary heaters will be immediately turned off and operations suspended until the above requirements are met. Using the temporary heaters in any manner that is not consistent with the above-mentioned requirements will result the issuance of a **Notice of Violation** to the appropriate contractor or subcontractor. If additional violations occur, it may result in the issuance of a Summons. Each offense of the VSFPC is a Class 1 misdemeanor and could result in a \$2500 fine and or up to 12 months in jail.

Links:

[Fire Operational Permit](#)

[Storage Tank Permit](#)

[Gas Permit](#)

[Electrical Permit \(If required\)](#)