

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDER:

**Temporary Heat on Construction Sites & Fire Code Compliance
National Fire Code – Alberta Edition 2023**

To all contractors, site supervisors, and project managers,

As the cold winter months approach, the use of temporary heating equipment on construction sites becomes essential. We are issuing this safety bulletin to remind all partners of the critical importance of adhering to the National Fire Code (Alberta Edition) 2023, specifically Section 5.6: Construction and Demolition Sites.

Improper use, installation, or maintenance of these heaters poses a significant risk of fire, explosion, and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Compliance with the code is mandatory and essential for protecting your workers, the public, and the integrity of your project.

Key safety & compliance highlights

While we expect all contractors to be familiar with the code, please pay special attention to these key requirements:

- **Proper clearance:** All heating equipment must maintain the manufacturer's specified clearance from combustible materials (e.g., tarps, insulation, wood framing, drywall). Never place materials on or over heaters.

Additionally, DG stored outdoors shall be placed on site as follows:

- 1.5 m from any building opening, if the aggregate capacity of expanded gas is not more than 170 m³.
- 7.5 m from any building opening, if the aggregate capacity of expanded gas is more than 170 m³ but less than 500 m³ and,
- 15 m from any building opening, if the aggregate capacity of expanded gas is 500 m³ or more.

- **Adequate ventilation:** All fuel-fired heaters (propane, natural gas, kerosene) require adequate fresh air intake and exhaust ventilation to prevent the dangerous buildup of carbon monoxide (CO) and other toxic gases. Ensure mechanical ventilation is sufficient if natural ventilation is restricted.
- **Equipment certification:** Only use heating appliances and equipment that are approved and certified for their intended use (e.g., UL, ULC, CSA). Do not use damaged equipment.
- **Heater installation:** When placing the temporary heater, ensure it is on level ground and a non-combustible surface (e.g. rig mats). Be sure to pay close attention to snow melt from heaters, as ground which appeared level when frozen can quickly change, causing a shift in your heaters original position.
- **Fuel storage & handling:** Propane cylinders (even "empty" ones) must be stored outdoors in a secure, well-ventilated, and accessible location, away from building exits and ignition sources. Refueling of equipment must be done in a safe, designated area, never inside the structure.
- **Leak testing & inspection:** All fuel lines, hoses, and connections must be inspected daily for leaks, kinks, or damage before firing up the equipment.
- **Fire Protection:** An appropriate number of ABC-rated fire extinguishers must be clearly visible and accessible in all areas where temporary heat is used. Specifically,
 - 3-A:20-B:C on moveable equipment
 - 4-A:40-B:C in all other locations
- **Supervision:** Heaters must be supervised when in operation, and all workers in the area must be trained on their safe use and emergency shutdown procedures.
- **Permits:** A gas permit is also required when installing temporary gas-fired heat for construction, this can be found [here](#). Ensure you apply prior to installation. Be sure to select "temp heat" in the "construction type" drop down menu.

Your action required:

We ask that you immediately:

- Review section 5.6 of the NFC(AE) 2023 with your site safety officers and supervisors. Reach out to [Cochrane Fire Services](#) with any questions or clarification.
- Obtain a permit for all temporary fuel-fired temporary heat.
- Inspect all temporary heating equipment before it is deployed to your site.
- Train all personnel on the safe operation, handling, and emergency procedures related to temporary heat.
- These practices are also required within your Fire Safety Plan, a guide for developing one can be provided to you by reaching out to our general [email](#).

Worker safety is our collective responsibility. Failure to comply with the fire code can result in stop-work orders, fines, and—most critically—a preventable tragedy.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.