



HAZARD ALERT

Liquid propane tanks and heaters used to warm buildings under construction

A drywall worker was seriously injured as he finished the drywall in a new home. To facilitate continued drying he brought a 12 gallon liquid propane (LP) tank and heater into a warm 90 degree house. The LP tank had been outside at approximately 32 degrees. He connected the LP tank and heater, started the heater, and directed it toward, but off to one side of, the LP tank about 3½ feet away. The worker was attempting to prevent the LP system from freezing which would cause the heater to quit. The heat forced the contents to expand rapidly in the tank causing the relief valve to blow propane into the room. The heater ignited the propane causing a massive explosion. The worker received second- and third-degree burns over 26 percent of his body.

In the construction standard, 1926.153(h)(13) prohibits directing radiant or blowing heat towards any LP container within 20 feet.

Do not point heaters at propane tanks or combustible walls.

Do not overfill tanks. Connections must not leak.



The pictures and photos used as illustrations do not necessarily depict the equipment involved in the incident described.

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Hazard alerts provide information on unusual safety or health hazards or unusual or hazardous materials or practices. For more information contact the Oregon OSHA Standard and Technical Resources Section at 503-378-3272, toll free at 800-922-2689 or visit our Web site at www.orosha.org.

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