



**POLICY MEMORANDUM**  
**Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

July 23, 2008

**TO:** ALL OSHA  
**FROM:** Marilyn Schuster, Policy Manager  
**SUBJECT:** ALH Heaters

When evaluating portable heaters in ALH, use the following guidelines to supplement the wording in Division 4. Anticipated changes to the rule should reflect these guidelines.

The rule prohibits heaters with “glowing elements.” The intent was to prevent ignition if occupants draped clothing or similar items over the heater. Older heaters had no device to control this hazard.

Today, there are heaters on the market that include a device that shuts down the unit when it begins to overheat. Most also come with devices to shut it off when it is tipped over.

Since our concern is hazards, and these two safety devices eliminate the hazards in this case, we should not be citing heaters with glowing elements if they also have the safety device that prevents overheating. ALH operators should be able to show you literature from the manufacturer or a label on the device that indicates the presence of this safety device.