



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND  
102 MCNAIR DRIVE  
FORT MONROE VIRGINIA 23651-1047

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

ATCS-S (385)

22 NOV 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Safety Policy for the Tactical Use of Portable Space Heaters

1. References:

a. Technical Manual 10-4500-200-13 (w/changes 1-19 or most current), Heaters Space: Radiant Type Portable, 30 Nov 94.

b. Technical Manual 9-4520-257-12&P, Operators and Units Maintenance Manual Heater, Space, Radiant, Large (H-45) (Type I, Solid Fuel) (NSN 4520-01-354-1191) (Type II, Liquid Fuel (4520-01-329-3451), 17 Sep 92.

c. Army Regulation 600-55, Motor Vehicle and Equipment Operator Selection, Training, Testing and Licensing, 31 Dec 93.

d. Army Regulation 420-90, Fire and Emergency Services, 10 Sep 97.

e. Ground Precautionary Message (GPM), GPM-SSCOM-97-01, (Operational): Fuel Fired Space Heaters, 3 Apr 97.

f. Memorandum, MCHB-DC-OFS, 16 Oct 96, subject: Health Hazard Assessment, Portable Kerosene Heaters.

g. TRADOC Regulation 385-2, TRADOC Safety Program, 27 Jan 00.

2. Purpose: To establish TRADOC interim policy for the use of portable space heaters in field training and operational environments.

3. Applicability: This policy applies to all TRADOC units, activities, and organizations as well as any unit activity, or organization operating on installations where the senior mission commander is a TRADOC commander. This policy will expire 1 year from the date of this memorandum.

4. Background: Commercial combustion or electrical heating devices in field training and operational environments may pose

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a serious risk of fire, injury, electrocution, or asphyxiation and will not be used.

5. Policy:

a. The use of any nonvented combustion type heater is prohibited.

b. The use of electrical heaters is prohibited in all tactical or operational environments.

c. The use of nonstandard or locally purchased heaters is prohibited except as indicated below.

d. The use of personal (individually owned) heaters is prohibited.

e. Acquisition and use of nonstandard heaters may be authorized by the first general officer in the unit's chain of command for mission-critical circumstances when approved heaters are not available. Before acquisition or use of nonstandard heaters, commanders will:

(1) Obtain approval from the first general officer in the chain of command.

(2) Procure only equipment meeting the requirements of a national standards organization: National Fire Protection Association, Underwriter's Laboratories, American National Standards Institute, or the International Standards Organization.

(3) Prepare a risk assessment and coordinate with local installation safety, logistics, and fire protection personnel.

(4) Ensure all personnel using nonstandard heaters are trained on their use and familiar with the associated hazards.

6. Portable heater safety: Before use of any portable heater, commanders will ensure that the following is accomplished:

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a. A written Standard Operating Procedure that embodies the principles of this policy is present.

b. Heaters are set up by competent individuals familiar with leak test procedures. Note: Only personnel trained, tested, and licensed IAW reference 1b, Chapter 6, will operate heaters.

c. Each heater is inspected before use by the responsible unit fire or safety representative.

d. Each heater is set up, fueled, used, and maintained in accordance with applicable Technical Manual (TM). Only fuels approved for use and specified in the applicable TM are used.

e. Modifications to heaters not approved by Modification Work Order or Safety of Use Message have not been made.

f. Heaters are vented to the outside of the tent, structure, or shelter using the vent stack provided with the heater.

g. All heaters are equipped with an emergency fuel shut-off.

h. Heaters are set up on a firm and level fireproof base located in a marked area free of clothing or combustible material.

i. A fire watch is on duty any time solid or liquid fueled heaters are in use. The fire watch will be briefed on procedures for fire fighting with appropriate extinguishing agent and early recognition of signs of carbon monoxide poisoning.

j. Heaters are not operated while unattended.

k. If the fuel tank is a separate component of the space heater, it will be located on the outside of the tent or shelter.

l. Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are not to be used. CO detectors are not designed or proven for outdoor use and do not

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have a means for calibration. CO detectors used in an outdoor environment provide a false sense of safety and early warning.

7. Authorized heater: The U.S. Army Soldier Biological and Chemical Command (SBCCOM) has developed a family of space heaters authorized for use by Army personnel. Information regarding these heaters can be obtained on the SBCCOM web site: <http://www.sbccom.army.mil/products/field/index.htm>.



LARRY R. JORDAN  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Commanding General/  
Chief of Staff

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