

# Work **Safe!** Bulletin

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## HEATING SYSTEMS IN ON-SITE BUILDINGS

A recent investigation by the Workplace Safety and Health Division into the death of a worker at a waste disposal site revealed the use of an inappropriate heating system for the situation.

In order to provide an environment where workers can warm up in colder weather, proper heating systems that are safe for workers' use must be provided. It is essential that systems which consume oxygen and use fossil fuels such as kerosene, propane or wood have adequate supplies of fresh air. If not, carbon monoxide may increase to levels within the enclosure that can cause sickness and in some cases death. Headaches can be the first sign of carbon monoxide poisoning.

To eliminate the possibility of installing a system that may be inappropriate, Manitoba Labour and Immigration Branches of Mechanical and Engineering and the Office of the Fire Commissioner can be contacted prior to the installation of any heating system intended for use in "on site" buildings that are used by workers at disposal grounds or in similar situations.

### OTHER SAFETY AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

It is also the employer's responsibility to provide the following basic requirements at any "on site" buildings used by workers:

- 1) Under Manitoba Regulation 105/88R a "working alone" plan must be developed if there is only one worker at a site. The plan must be agreed upon by both the employer and affected worker. Such a plan must assess risks of the job and establish a means of communication that will enable the employer to monitor the worker's well being on the job.
- 2) Adequate toilet and washing facilities, including a sufficient supply of toiletries, must be provided according to Manitoba Regulation 104/88R.
- 3) First aid supplies must be provided according to the requirements of Manitoba Regulation 101/88R.

### RESOURCE INFORMATION

Copies of the Workplace Safety and Health Act and the applicable regulations referred to in this bulletin are available upon request from the Workplace Safety and Health Division, 200-401 York Ave. Winnipeg Manitoba, 945-3446. Calls may be placed collect if long distance.

If you would like further information or assistance on this issue please call the Mechanical and Engineering Branch at 945-3373 or the Office of the Fire Commissioner at 945-3322.