



Ensuring Outdoor Heater Safety

Contributed by LYNNE ANDERSON, Claims Manager, Preferred Club

GOLF CLUBS HAVE BEEN USING outdoor space to counter indoor seating restrictions in their dining areas. As temperatures drop, portable outdoor heaters are being used to heat outdoor areas and extend the outdoor dining season especially in areas where it is becoming too cool to comfortably sit or stand. Whether you rent or buy propane or electric heaters, they should be used in accordance with their listing and manufacturer instructions. These may include:

- Required clearance from the heating element
- Proper ventilation (and no indoor usage)
- Proper inspection, cleaning and maintenance
- Lighting and shutdown procedures (propane)
- Appropriate capacity extension cords (electric)
- Properly storing heaters

Keep anything that can burn a minimum of three feet away from the heater. And be sure to turn off all portable heaters when the area in which they are used is not occupied.

Propane cylinders must not be stored inside a building, nor on a roof. They must be a minimum of five feet from any doorway or opening in a building with at least two means of egress, and

10 feet if the building has only one means of egress. And if your club has an onsite fuel dispenser, propane cylinders will require 20 feet of clearance.

Electrical cords must be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multi-plug adapter, should serve only one portable appliance, and should be grounded. Extension cords must also be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or other damage and affixed to the ground properly.

By following these general safety guidelines, your club is more likely to have a successful extension of its outdoor seating season to the delight of your club members, guests and staff.

This information is intended to explain the major concerns for outdoor heaters to ensure that heaters are being used properly and safely, and provide an enjoyable experience for your members and guests. ■

For more detailed information on outdoor heater safety, please email riskmanagement@ventureprograms.com for a free, two-page safety sheet.