

PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING BLOWERS, HEATERS, AND PORTABLE ENGINE DRIVEN UNITS

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes precautions to be observed when using blowers, heaters, and all portable engine driven (gasoline or propane) units. This includes: heater ventilators, generator, and manhole pump units.

1.02 When used at manhole locations, employees shall be familiar with the following sections prior to using the portable unit:

- Section 620-135-010, Guarding Work Areas
- Section 620-140-501, Testing and Ventilating Manholes
- Section 649-510-115, Blower Hoses.

1.03 When units are to be used on or near a roadway, appropriate warning devices must be placed before other work operations are started.

1.04 Built-in safety devices, provided with portable units, shall not be modified, disabled, or removed.

Note: Suppliers recommended modifications to upgrade units are permitted.

2. POSITIONING UNITS

All Units

2.01 Position a portable unit so it will not be subject to damage, obstruct traffic, or present a hazard to pedestrians.

2.02 At manholes, locate the unit so that it will not be pushed into the manhole.

2.03 If the ground condition is such that the vibration of the unit causes it to move, block the unit to prevent movement, especially at manholes.

2.04 *Warning: Imperfect combustion of LP gas and exhaust from engine driven units can have an adverse health effect if operated in a confined area. Therefore, do not place or operate such a unit in a confined, unventilated enclosure and never operate or store in a manhole.*

Blowers—Ventilators

2.05 The following additional considerations must be given when positioning blowers or ventilators:

- (a) Whenever possible, direct the air intake to face the prevailing wind direction and least subject to exhaust fumes from vehicular traffic.
- (b) When powered by or used together with other portable generator units, direct the exhaust from these units away from the air intake of a blower or ventilator unit.

3. OPERATING UNITS

All Units

3.01 Prior to pulling the recoil starter rope, make sure there are no objects to interfere with free body movement.

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SECTION 649-510-001

3.02 Keep flammable materials such as clothes, wood, rope, canvas, etc, away from units when in use.

3.03 Avoid body contact with heated parts.

Blowers—Ventilators

3.04 Never operate a unit with the air intake screen removed.

3.05 Do not cover the blower intake screen, or in anyway restrict the air flow into the blower.

Heaters

3.06 Do not light the burner unless the engine is running smoothly after a sufficient warm-up period.

3.07 To locate a suspected propane leak, coat connections with a soap solution. **NEVER TEST FOR LEAKS WITH AN OPEN FLAME.**

4. FUEL SUPPLY

Gasoline Engine

4.01 Gasoline for portable units shall be stored in approved safety cans. Only a sufficient

amount of fuel for a full day's operation should be on hand.

4.02 Never fill the fuel tank when the engine is hot or running. Avoid spilling gasoline, particularly on the engine, because of the fire hazard. If gasoline is spilled, wipe the affected area dry and permit vapors to dissipate before starting the engine.

Propane Engine

4.03 Employees shall be familiar with Section 081-330-116, LP Gas Cylinders.

4.04 To locate a suspected propane leak, coat connections with a soap solution. **NEVER TEST FOR LEAKS WITH AN OPEN FLAME.**

4.05 To stop the engine, turn off the valve at the propane cylinder, not by grounding the spark plug.