



SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3

Fire Prevention Division

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION

TITLE / SUBJECT: PORTABLE LP-GAS HEATERS

CODE: International Fire Code (IFC), 2003 Edition

Authority: IFC 104.1

Date: March 30, 2006

Fire Code Official Signature

Background:

Although the use of hand-held propane heaters is not specifically described in the International Fire Code, but their use in assembly occupancies is highly questionable. Specifically, in an outdoor stadium, spectators attempt to keep warm using propane heaters.

Interpretation:

- The use of portable (hand-held or otherwise) propane (as defined in the International Fire Code) heaters constitutes a relative hazard to the operator and others when such a device is used in an assembly occupancy. Spectators visiting an assembly occupancy have a right to expect a safe environment; the fire code helps ensure this environment. Hand-held propane heaters have a potential to cause injury to others in a densely-packed environment. By this interpretation, the use of portable propane heaters is specifically disallowed in Group A occupancies.

Net Effect:

This interpretation does not affect other existing allowed or disallowed uses of propane in Group A occupancies.

The use of portable propane heaters in assembly occupancies within the City of Monroe shall constitute a violation of the International Fire Code and MMC 15.04.110.