

Safety Alert



Heating Safety OIF SA-011



This time of year we are all thinking about staying warm and comfortable. While most of us know how to keep warm, some of us are more willing to take unnecessary risks to accomplish this. The cost of this can be death and/or the loss of Government or personal property from Carbon Monoxide poisoning or fires. Most of the time, the temperatures in our region of Iraq do not dip too much below freezing; if they did, the equipment that the Military has provided us will keep us warm without risks.

Recently, a Soldier did not use effective Composite Risk Management nor did he follow the rules below. In doing so he almost died and placed his fellow Soldiers at great risk of Carbon Monoxide poisoning and fire. Sometime during the night this SM woke up cold. Instead of using his sleeping bag or putting on additional covers he elected to use a charcoal grill for heat. He did this IOT maintain his privacy verses opening the door which would have allowed heat from adjoining quarters to enter his room. This act nearly cost him his life, earned him a trip to LRMC, and certainly, an undetermined level of brain damage.

There are simple and effected rules that will keep you and your teammate's safe, ready, and in the fight.

1. Never use any fuel fired heating device inside an enclosed space. This includes grills, kerosene heaters, and Army approved devices.
2. Never remove or modify safety devices.
3. Always, use UL or CE approved electrical heaters.
4. If using an electrical heater, ensure that it is the only device on that circuit.
4. Supplemental heating devices are not authorized where proper devices are installed.
5. Read and follow the MND-B Portable Heater Safety Policy published on 27 December 2007.

This is a picture of the grill that this Soldier used to warm up.

It nearly cost him his life.



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