



Jim Pillen, Governor

Heating and Cooling During Extreme Weather In health care occupancies

Health care facilities should consider creating a plan to address the loss of heating or cooling systems within the building. When preparing for such incidents keep in mind the following:

1. Portable heating/cooling units cannot be placed in an egress corridor. These units, no matter how small, reduce the width of the corridor and can obstruct egress.
2. Portable space heaters are not permitted in health care occupancies. The facility must have a plan that does not include the use of even a single portable space heater.
3. Portable space heaters are not permitted in attics or crawl spaces.
4. Indoor extension cords and power strips cannot be used for temporary heating/cooling units.
5. Space heaters that are designed to be permanently attached to walls are permitted when installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
6. Portable cooling units can be placed in rooms not exposed to corridors.
7. Your contingency plan may include large, outdoor units as shown below.



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Plans for extreme weather conditions should take into consideration areas where extreme cold might affect fire sprinkler piping. Sealing cracks or adding insulation should be an option. If further action is necessary, consider using anti-freeze in sprinkler piping, or in small areas heat tape can be used.

The following table illustrates the solution of antifreeze that can be used in sprinkler piping. Always consult a certified fire sprinkler contractor and have them add the correct (listed) antifreeze in the correct amount.

Table 7.6.2.2 Antifreeze Solution to Be Used if Potable Water Is Connected to Sprinklers

Material	Solution (by volume)	Specific Gravity at 60°F (15.6°C)	Freezing Point	
			°F	°C
Glycerine (C.P. or U.S.P. grade)	50% water	1.145	−20.9	−29.4
	40% water	1.171	−47.3	−44.1
	30% water	1.197	−22.2	−30.1
Hydrometer scale 1.000 to 1.200				
Propylene glycol	60% water	1.034	−6	−21.1
	50% water	1.041	−26	−32.2
	40% water	1.045	−60	−51.1
Hydrometer scale 1.000 to 1.200 (subdivisions 0.002)				

C.P.: Chemically pure. U.S.P.: United States Pharmacopoeia 96.5%.

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