

Safer places of Worship

Heating

Heating systems, whether portable or fixed, should be kept in good condition and regularly serviced.

Fuel oil storage tanks

Tanks should be located with a catch pit or bund equivalent to 110% of the capacity of the tank to retain the contents in the event of a leak. Where fitted externally the catch pit should be fitted with a self-closing rainwater drain valve.

Tanks should be inspected regularly for signs of rusting and leaks and remedial action taken if necessary.

Portable heaters

Portable heaters should not be sited where they may obstruct exit routes and should not be located within 1 metre of any combustible materials or furniture.

The cylinder supplying bottled gas to a heater should be located outside the building and approved pipe work used for supply. If this is not possible they must be located within a well-ventilated secure area. Fuel stocks should be kept to a minimum and stored in a secure location away from sources of ignition.

Heaters should not be sited on combustible floors or surfaces when the temperature of the cover exceeds 120°C.

Electrical heaters should be British Electrotechnical Approvals Board (BEAB) approved and should be tested annually by a competent person.

Heaters should not be kept unattended particularly outside opening hours.

The use of heaters with exposed elements should be avoided.

