

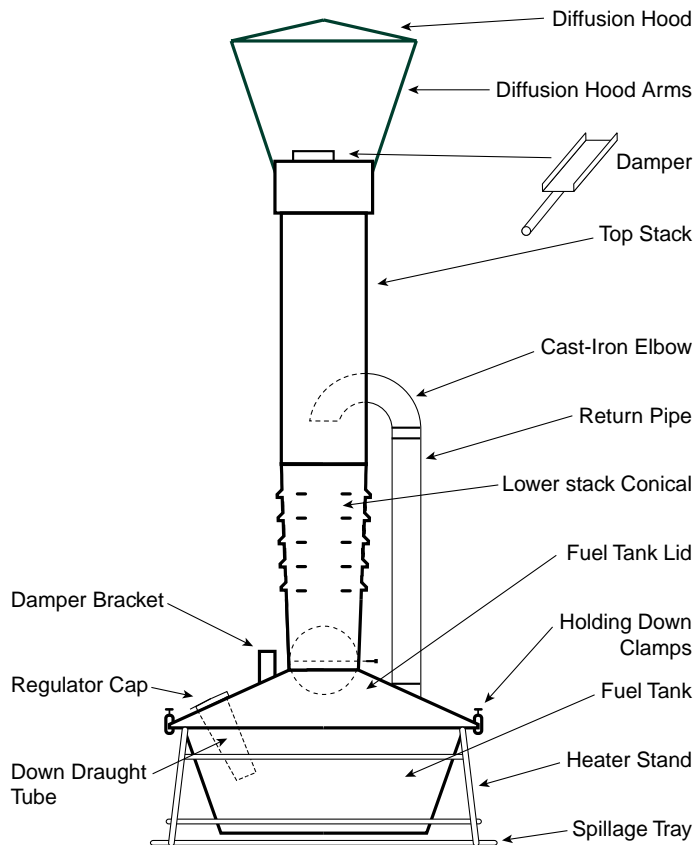
No job is more important.



Safety Alert

Nº.3 2000

## Kerosene Heater Ignites – Man Seriously Burnt



A man was seriously injured when he tried to refuel a kerosene heater before the unit had cooled down. The man suffered major external and internal burns and was hospitalised for a prolonged period.

### Contributing Factors

An investigation into the accident revealed that:

- The heater was purchased second-hand and no operating instructions were provided with the unit.
- The owner was unaware of the precautions that needed to be followed when refuelling the heater.
- The man failed to identify the hazard prior to filling the fuel tank – (i.e. the existence of burning carbon deposits inside the tank).



## Recommendations

It is important to adhere to the manufacturer operation instructions to prevent this type of occurrence.

It is vitally important that:

- Heaters are not filled with fuel, or moved whilst they are operating.
- Heaters are cool prior to refilling or re-lighting because hot surfaces and/or carbon deposits can ignite kerosene vapours.
- Operators always use the fuel that is specified by the manufacturer and under no circumstances burn waste oil.
- Heaters are cleaned at least once a month to ensure that carbon and soot build-ups in the bowl and stack are removed.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:  
Telephone: **1300 366 322** (inside Tasmania) or (03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania),

Fax: (03) 6233 8338      Email: [wstinfo@dier.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@dier.tas.gov.au)      Internet: [www.wsa.tas.gov.au](http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au)



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January 17 2000