

CASE STUDY:

TEMPORARY HEATING TO BATTLE THE COLD AT AN ILLINOIS WAREHOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Location: Illinois

Industry: Warehouse

Equipment: Rental Indirect Fired Heaters –
Six - 1 million btu, skid-mounted units

Illinois – After several winters using small, portable heaters with limited success, a northern Illinois warehouse sought a new temporary heating option. Unable to absorb the cost of a permanent HVAC system, the company had used temporary heating the last few winters. The smaller, temporary heaters worked somewhat well, but their fuel costs ran high. Seeking alternatives, REIC was contacted to offer alternatives for heating.

Fuel and Heating Considerations – A large warehouse and distribution center, the facility had numerous openings with a regular influx of outside air. Evaluating the facility, the REIC team suggested 1 million btu, indirect fired heaters, which operate on LP fuel. These rental heaters are capable of delivering the heating needed throughout facility, even with regular outside air entering. Additionally, the heaters fueling on LP was a substantial cost savings for the company versus the daily diesel costs last year.



Temporary Installation and Delivery - Teaming up with the company's mechanical contractor, REIC placed each of the six heaters in strategic points. After placement, the mechanical contractor constructed and affixed semi-permanent firm ducting to re-circulate and deliver heated air into the building. The entry points were unused delivery bay doors, affixed with a wood covering and entry points for the inlet and outlet ducting. Not only can the sheet metal ducting be used again next year but it was also preferred, given the harsh and windy winters in Illinois.

Heating for the Fall and Winter - All six (6) heaters were installed and operational in late October, just before the Illinois winter was underway. Scheduled to run into the new year and until spring, the warehouse and distribution center maintains that the temporary heater option remains a cost-effective route when compared with purchasing and installing a permanent HVAC system. That said, REIC expects to return next year with more rental heaters. If these heaters, or another style of heater is used, the semi-permanent ducting can be repurposed and the company will be able to recoup more savings on a temporary solution, rather than using a permanent system.