

## Space Heater Safety

### The Proper Use of Space Heaters in the Work Place

The use of space heaters in offices is quite common in the winter. Even in warmer climates, winter mornings can bring a chill. And while these seemingly harmless devices may be an efficient way to heat a cold or drafty space, they can pose certain safety hazards when used incorrectly.



### What You Should Do

Even though a space heater does not have an open flame, the heating elements of some are hot enough to cause nearby combustibles to ignite. Additionally, fires can be caused by improper use or faulty wiring, and burns can be caused by contact with the heating element or a hot surface.

Therefore, taking appropriate safety measures is vital in preventing an accident. It is also important to review space heater policies with building management prior to purchase or use.

### Space Heater Safety Precautions:

- › Choose a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- › Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions on how far the heater should be placed from other objects.
- › Use a heater certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to meet safety standards.
- › Buy a heater that is the correct size for the area you want to heat.
- › Never leave an unattended heater turned on.
- › Ensure proper ventilation.
- › Never use or store flammable liquids around a space heater.
- › Never use heaters to dry clothes or equipment or thaw pipes.
- › Do not place a heater where objects could fall on it.
- › Follow the instructions and safety precautions for operation and maintenance.
- › Never use a portable heater in a bathroom or near a sink.
- › Do not run the heater's cord under carpeting or where someone could trip over it.
- › Never touch an electric heater if you are wet.
- › Never operate a defective or broken heater.
- › Place the heater on a level surface for stability.
- › Install and maintain a smoke detector in the area where the heater will be used.

#### For more information on space heater safety...

Consumer Product Safety Commission:

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

The US Department of Energy:

[www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)



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