

Space Heater Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association space heaters are one of the top three causes of house fires. Space heaters are involved in 79 percent of fatal home heating fires. Many of these fires are preventable as they are started from improper usage of heating devices.

In general, these 3 recommendations should be considered/followed when using a space heater at home or at work:

Do.

- **Plug space heater cords directly into outlets. DO NOT use extension cords!** Extension cords will not protect portable space heaters from surges and can heat up rather quickly from electric currents causing the extension cord to melt and create a fire hazard.
- Check the cord for splits or exposed wiring before use and discard space heater if splits or exposed wire is observed.
- Use space heaters that will automatically turn off if they fall over.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from clothing, bedding, furniture, children, and pets.

NEVER.

- Run the space heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs.
- Place anything on top of a space heater.
- Leave a space heater on when unattended.
- Plug a space heater into an extension cord.

