

Space Heater Safety

Portable space heaters can pose a major workplace fire safety hazard. Fires can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.

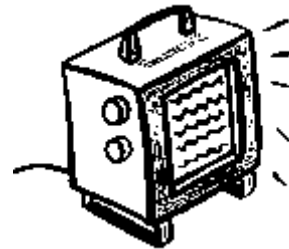
Space heaters can be used safely in the workplace if proper precautions are taken. A space heater used in the workplace must be approved for use by Underwriter's Laboratories Inc. (UL), placed away from combustible materials, and have a tip-over switch to ensure it will turn off automatically if knocked over. Space heaters should also **never** be used with extension cords, as most extension cords are not rated for the higher power demands of space heaters and may become overloaded and catch fire.

Fast Facts about Space Heaters

In 2007*, space heaters were the caused of:

- 2,800 home structure fires
- \$69.5 million in property damage
- 48 civilian deaths
- 195 civilian injuries

* Source: National Fire Protection Association



Precautions for Safe Use of Space Heaters in the Workplace

All space heater units used in the workplace **MUST**:

- Be inspected by the supervisor each year prior to use, to ensure that the unit is safe to use in the workplace
- Be inspect daily by the user for cord cracks, hot spots, or signs of wear
- Have been tested and labeled by Underwriter's Laboratories Inc. (UL)
- Have three feet of clearance around the entire unit
- Have NOTHING placed on or above the unit
- Be placed in an area free of combustibles such as: clothing, paper, wood or furniture
- Have safety features that protect from contact with the heating elements
- Be placed on a level surface away from areas where someone might bump it and knock it over
- Be equipped with a tip-over switch that turns off unit when tipped over
- Only be used while under direct supervision; never leave unattended
- Be unplugged from the wall electric outlet when not in use
- **NOT** be used with extension cords
- **NOT** be used with missing or broken parts (such as knobs, grills, or stands)

When we share the responsibility for safety in the workplace, everyone wins!!