

Have a Safe Warm Winter

There's no question that portable space heaters can pose a potential 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. When using a portable space heater consider these guidelines:

- Space heaters should only be used as a temporary source of heat, and should never be used when small children are expected in the area.
- Heaters missing guards, control knobs, feet, etc. must be taken out of service immediately and repaired by a competent person.
- All heaters must not take more than 1,500 watts to operate, and must be Underwriters Listed or Factory Mutual approved for their intended use.
- If the space heater has any exposed metal parts, it must have a grounded three-pronged plug.
- All heaters must be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Do not use extension cords or power strips because of the risk of overheating and possibly catching fire.
- Heaters must have a tip-over automatic shut down feature.
- The space heater must have a thermostat to automatically shut down the unit when the desired temperature is achieved.
- Heaters must be kept at least 3 feet from all combustible materials, e.g., file cabinets, desks, trash cans, and paper boxes.
- Heaters must be in plain sight and monitored when in operation.
- The space heater should always be turned off when the area being heated is not occupied.



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