

Loss Prevention Safety Tip



Loss Prevention
Program

By Red River Mutual

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters are the leading cause of home fires during December, January and February. Such disasters can be prevented with a few simple precautions.

- Only purchase newer model heaters that have overheat protection, a tip-over switch and a guard around the heating element.
- Look for a heater that is listed with a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters have been tested to meet stringent safety standards.
- Keep heater at least 3 feet away from combustible items such as drapes and furniture. This is the number one cause of space heater fires.
- Heaters should be placed on a flat, level surface away from furniture and foot traffic.
- Use space heaters only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are designed for use only as temporary supplemental heating.
- Do not leave the heater operating unattended or while sleeping.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary.
- Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation.
- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs or carpeting.
- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water and never touch an electric heater if you are wet.
- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it and never use it as a heater to thaw pipes.
- If you have a liquid-fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire.
- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly.
- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to ensure that it is legal.
- Regardless of the type of heating system you have, install and maintain at least one smoke detector that is in good working condition on each floor of your home.



See more loss prevention tips at www.preventingloss.com

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