

Heating Fire Safety



Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths, according to the NFPA. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

Safety Tips



Inspect heaters for damage, looking for cracked or broken plugs as well as loose connections and frayed wires. If damage is found do not use.



Never use an oven to heat a home.



Do not use fuel burning heaters in closed and confined spaces; always maintain a steady source of fresh air.



Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.



Create a safe zone of 3 feet around heaters that is free from flammable materials, kids, and pets.

Use



Do not fuel a heater while it is in use. Wait until the heater has been turned off and has cooled.



Before operating heating appliances, read the manufacturer's instructions and any warning labels.



Do not leave a heater unattended. Turn off heaters when you leave and NEVER use a heating appliance, such as a portable space heater, while you're sleeping.



Plug heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use a power strip or an extension cord to power heating appliances.



Do not attempt to move a heater while it is in use. To prevent burns, wait until the heater has cooled.



When using a fuel burning heater, only use the kind of fuel specified by the manufacturer.

Placement & Storage

Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that may catch on fire, such as furniture, rugs, or clothing.

Place heaters on stable, flat, or level surfaces. Do not place a heater on carpet, unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer.

Unplug electric space heaters when not in use. Before storing, make sure any heating appliance is cooled down completely.

Only store heater fuel in appropriate containers. Do not mix fuel types. Do not store fuel burning heaters until the fuel has been removed from the heater and stored properly.

Sources:

<https://energy.gov/energysaver/portable-heaters>

<http://www.iii.org/article/kerosene-heater-safety>

<http://www.esfi.org/resource/space-heater-safety-tips-146>

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating/heating-safety-tips>