

Cold Weather & Space Heater Safety



Electric or fuel-fired

portable space heaters

are responsible for over

10,000 residential fires

each year, and as many

as 200 deaths per year.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports space heaters can be used effectively as long as the following safety precautions are followed:

DO Choose a space heater that has been tested to safety standards

DO Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element

DO Use in a well-ventilated area if the unit is unventilated

DO Install a smoke alarm with fresh batteries

DO Turn off the heater if leaving the area

DO Have a fire extinguisher handy

DON'T Place heater near combustibles—clothes, drapes, furniture, etc

DON'T Use underrated or damaged electrical connectors with electric heaters

DON'T Use gasoline in place of kerosene or propane

DON'T Go to sleep with the heater on

DON'T Allow children to operate heater

DON'T Use heater to dry clothes

All safety procedures on the use of portable space heaters should be reviewed prior to use. Manufacturers, local fire departments, and consumer safety groups are valuable sources of material. 



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