

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Electrical Space Heater – Failed Power Strip Fire

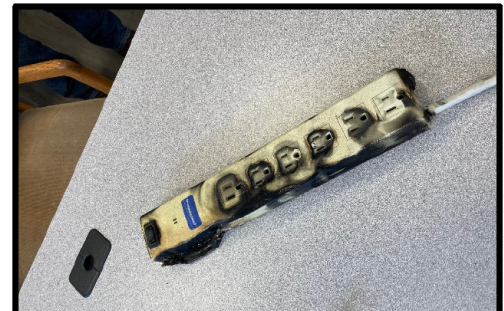
A small fire started in an office from a power bar located under an employee's desk.

Multiple devices were connected to the power bar including a space heater.

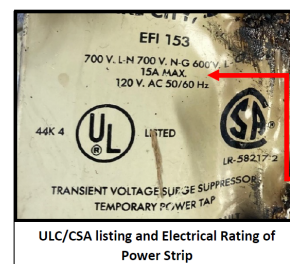
The fire was small and was extinguished by the employee after the power was disconnected.

The power bar was a ULC/CSA listed device rated for 120 volts at 15 amps maximum. The total load connected to the power bar was 18.55 amps when the fire occurred. - most of it was from the space heater.

There were two hazards identified in this incident - the overloaded power bar and the space heater.



Power Strip – post fire



15 amps maximum

ULC/CSA listing and Electrical Rating of Power Strip

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

1. When possible, don't use space heaters.
2. Inspect your workspace (offices, kitchens/break rooms, server rooms). Confirm 'high load' (such as space heaters) equipment are not plugged into a power bar. Ensure power bars aren't overloaded. Additional circuits may be required.
3. Ensure that space heaters and other 'high load' equipment are plugged directly into a wall outlet.
4. If space heaters are used, ensure they are turned off AND unplugged when it is not in use.
5. Inspect power bars and confirm they are not connected to other power bars or extension cords.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Space heaters and other high load equipment must be plugged directly into a wall outlet and NOT into a power bar.

