

USING PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS AT WORK

With winter around the corner and temperatures starting to drop, portable space heaters may be a common fixture in the workplace. Although space heaters may be handy for warming up cold spaces, they can pose a significant fire, electrical shock and injury risk. They are also uncontrolled ignition sources that can cause combustible dust flash fires and explosions.

SPACE HEATER SAFETY:

- SPACE HEATER FIRE HAZARDS
- WHY THEY'RE NOT GREAT PLACES TO DRY YOUR GLOVES
- YES THEY CAN CAUSE BURNS TOO!
- SPACE HEATER SAFETY AT HOME



BC Forest Safety

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SPACE HEATER FIRE HAZARDS

Portable space heaters are high-wattage appliances that have the potential to ignite combustible material. While they provide immediate warmth they can also burn down your operation. Especially if you use heaters made for home use. Home use heaters have safety features that turn off if you tip them over but they can overheat and catch on fire if they are used to heat large areas.

Portable home space heaters can quickly become unsafe if you walk away from the heater and leave it on for extended periods of time. If you are going to use a portable space heater at work first obtain permission from your supervisor. Never leave the heaters on if you leave the area, even if it's for a short period of time like a break or lunch.

WHY THEY'RE NOT GREAT PLACES TO DRY YOUR GLOVES

Drying your work gloves on your space heater whether it's portable or hard wired in is a significant hazard and can quickly lead to a fire. Many of the work gloves in use are made from materials that can catch fire. By draping them over a space heater to dry you are significantly increasing the fire risk in your immediate area.

YES THEY CAN CAUSE BURNS TOO!

There's nothing better than putting on warm gloves when you come back from your break. Using a space heater to dry or warm up your gloves can cause serious injuries if they are overheated or start to melt.

Don't use a space heater to dry or warm your gloves. This can cause significant burns to your hands.

SPACE HEATER SAFETY AT HOME

The hazards listed above when you using space heaters at work are the same hazards if you use space heaters at home. *For you and your family's safety consider the following safety tips:*

- Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable material.
- Never run the cords under rugs or carpeting.
- Place space heaters on level, hard and non-flammable surfaces where they won't tip over. Tip over safety shut off switches are only recommended not a voluntary standard.
- Never use a space heater with an extension cord or power strip. Space heaters should be plugged directly into the wall outlet.
- Regularly check the cords and outlets for fraying or overheating. Never assume everything is OK when these appliances are in use.
- Never leave a space heater on when you leave the room. You might forget that it's on and it can overheat and catch on fire.
- When using space heaters check your smoke and carbon monoxide sensors. Consider putting in new batteries each winter and test the smoke detectors in the fall.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to access safety tips for portable space heaters.



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