

~ Space Heater Safety Tips ~



According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- In 2006, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 64,100 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 540 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$943 million in direct property damage.
- In 2006 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 21% of home fire deaths.
- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (30%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2006.
- In 2003-2006, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) and deaths (46%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding. These statistics exclude fires that were confined to a chimney, flue, fuel burner or boiler.

If you have a space heater, please review the listed safety tips and do your part in helping to reduce fires and deaths caused by space heaters.

- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Choose a space heater that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Buy a heater that is the correct size for the area you want to heat.
- Choose models that have automatic safety switches that turn off the unit if it is tipped over accidentally.

Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element. Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture or other flammable materials.

- Fuel burning space heaters are prohibited for use in the State's Residential and Commercial Building Codes.
- Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep. Never place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
- Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Children should not be permitted to either adjust the controls or move the heater.
- Do not hang items to dry above or on the heater.
- Keep all heaters out of high traffic and exit areas.
- Keep portable electric heaters away from sinks, tubs and other wet or damp places to avoid deadly electric shocks.

###