



Portable Electric Space Heater Safety



It is that time of year again when the weather can play tricks on the heating and cooling systems in our work centers. The range in temperature during the autumn months can vary from 40° in the mornings and up to 75° in the afternoon. During this time we seek the help of portable electrical heaters to keep us warm until the heating system becomes a little more consistent.

The overall increase in portable electrical space heater use in our work places also increases the risk of fire due to these heaters.

You can reduce the risk by following 10 simple portable space heater safety precautions listed below:

1. All heaters must be Underwriters Listed or Factory Mutual approved for their intended use.
2. Heaters must have a thermostat to automatically shut the unit off when the desired temperature is achieved.
3. Heaters must have a tip-over shut down feature.
4. Heaters must be kept at least 3 feet (36 inches) from all combustibile materials (e.g. file cabinets, desks, trash cans, paper boxes, etc)
5. Do not place heaters under desks or in other enclosed areas such as closets, bathrooms and kitchens.
6. Heaters must be monitored when in operation and turned off when the area is not occupied. *(Always insure they are turned off at the end of the workday)*
7. Plug the heater directly into a wall receptacle without a multi-outlet box and/or an extension cord.
8. Never run the heater cord (or any cord) under rugs, carpeting, or furniture.
9. Heaters need to be monitored daily. Heaters with missing guards, control knobs, and feet, must be taken out of service immediately.
10. No open coil/flame space heaters are permitted in any Rutherford County buildings.