

Space Heater Safety Basics

Objective: To reinforce awareness of the potential dangers involved with space heater use.

Understanding the Dangers

Many people use portable and in-wall gas or electric space heaters to warm their workplaces, offices, or a room at home. Failing to follow important safety instructions can cause fires and serious injuries, including burns and carbon monoxide poisoning, or even death. **Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating a portable heater.**

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Fueled space heaters emit significant amounts of **carbon monoxide gas**, which is odorless, tasteless, and colorless, and can be fatal. These heaters, which burn natural gas, liquefied petroleum, or other fuels, pose poisoning risks when there isn't adequate ventilation in the use area. Carbon monoxide alarms, as well as smoke alarms, should be in use.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include drowsiness, headaches, or nausea. Exposure to carbon monoxide is an added concern to those with heart problems, the elderly, pregnant women, and the very young. Significant overexposure can result in permanent brain damage and death.



Ensure space heater use is permitted per your company policy.

Location of Heaters

- Locate heaters and cords away from heavy traffic areas and walkways.
- Choose an area with an appropriate outlet that can power the space heater without overloading the circuit. **Never use extension cords to power space heaters!**
- Maintain at least 36 inches of clearance from flammables and combustibles, like furniture or curtains.
- Choose a heater with a low center of gravity and place it on a level surface.
- Don't use in explosive environments or wet areas.

General Recommendations

- When purchasing a portable heater, ensure it's an approved model from a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters' Laboratories (UL).
- Never leave a portable heater unattended while operating it.
- Only use portable heaters equipped with an automatic shut-off device that turns off the heater if it is tipped over.
- Use heaters with thermostat control and high-temperature shut-offs that prevent overheating.
- Inspect before use.

Fueled Heater Tips & Best Practices

- Fill fueled heaters in a safe and well-ventilated area, away from ignition sources.
- Never fill a heater when it is hot or in use.
- Never substitute a heater's proper fuel with a different type of fuel or convert a heater to a different type of fuel.

Space Heater Safety Basics

This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: _____ Date: _____

Trainer: _____ Trainer's Signature: _____

Class Participants:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____