SPACE HEATERS

In 2008, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 66,100 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 480 civilian deaths, 1,660 civilian injuries, and $1.1 billion in direct property damage. These fires accounted for 17% of all reported home fires.

Facts & Figures

Based on 2004-2008 annual averages:

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of home heating fires and four out of five (82%) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (25%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (52%) of home heating fire deaths.
- Half (49%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.
- Home heating fires peak during 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and associated deaths peak during 2:00 to 4:00 a.m.

From the National Fire Protection Association

Considerations for All Space Heaters

- When buying a space heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriter’s Laboratories Inc. (UL).
- Ensure the model you choose has a “tip switch” that will shut it off if it is knocked over or falls and/or an “over heat protection switch”. All models should have these safety features built in to their design.
- Keep in mind that space heaters are designed to provide small amounts of warm air. They aren’t bed warmers, cooks or clothes dryers, so never try to use them for anything other than helping warm a room.
- Ensure there is a guard around the heating element or flame area.

Electric Space Heater Safety Tips

- Use space heaters only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are not intended to replace the home’s heating system.
- Make sure that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working before using a space heater.
- Never leave a space heater running unattended or while you sleep.
- When not in use, space heaters should be unplugged.
- Keep all space heaters at least 3 feet away from household furniture and combustibles. You do not want to put it close to curtains, blankets, or anything else that could catch on fire.
- Never cover the space heater cord with carpeting or furniture.
- Make sure you put your heater only on a hard, level non-flammable surface. Never on carpets or a rug that could catch fire.
- Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.
- Keep young children away from space heaters.
- Do not connect a space heater to an outlet with an extension cord, and never overload the circuit.
- Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check the cord on an electric space heater to determine if it is very warm or hot. If so, unplug it immediately and try another outlet. If it continues to be hot, contact an electrician.

To minimize the risk of fire while using a space heater, read and follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions.

2011 UCAR Health & Benefits Fair

March 3, 2011
9:00am—2:00pm
CGI-Auditorium

Blood Draw Sessions for Health Fair
(12 hr fast & registration required)
February 2nd  7:30-11:00  ML Damon
February 9th   7:30-11:00  CGI Upper Café
February 11th 7:30-11:00  FL2 1003
February 15th 8:00-11:00  RAF

Sign up for blood draws @ the UCAR Health Fair Website: www.fin.ucar.edu/wellness/healthfares.html

Did You Know?

Report ice/snow removal concerns to Maintenance x1120.

Upcoming Safety Classes:

1-6-2011
Fire Extinguisher 10:00am - 12:00pm FL2 1003
CPR Recertification 1:00pm - 5:00pm FL2 1003

2-3-2011
Hazard Communication 9:00am - 10:30am RAF Cnfr Rm
Confined Space 10:30am - 11:30am RAF Cnfr Rm
Hot Operations 11:30am - 12:30pm RAF Cnfr Rm
Lockout/Tagout 1:30pm - 2:30pm RAF Cnfr Rm

3-3-2011
Workplace Harassment Awareness 1:30pm - 3:30pm ML Main Seminar Rm

4-12-2011
Back Safety 1:30pm - 3:30pm FL2 1003

4-14-2010
CPR Certification (MERT/Field Campaign Staff Only) 10:00am - 5:00pm FL2 1003

4-28-2011
Safety Training for Supervisors of Lab/Shop/ Maintenance Employees 10:00am - 12:00pm ML Chapman Rm

Register @:
HR website: www.fin.ucar.edu/hr/staff_dev/index.html
or by calling Betty Singleton x2005.