

Feeling chilled? HEAT your SPACE safely



Before you dust off your space heater and plug it in, consider that most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve space heaters, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires (cooking is the leading cause).

More than half of the heating-related home fires start when flammable items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA. Those items include upholstered furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Here are some space heater safety tips:

- ☛ Only use them as the manufacturer recommends
- ☛ Do not leave them unattended
- ☛ Give them space: remove any flammable items within 3 feet
- ☛ Plug them directly into outlets; don't use an extension cord
- ☛ Consider using a dedicated circuit to avoid overload
- ☛ Keep children and pets away from space heaters at all times
- ☛ Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep

