

Space Heater Safety

Space heaters account for 43 percent of U.S. home heating fires and 85 percent of associated deaths (NFPA 2018).

21,800 home fires, 490 deaths, 1,180 injuries and \$330 million in property damage (NFPA 2007).

Key Requirements:

- ◆ State employees are required to obtain space heater use approval from their supervisor, their agency safety professional and may need to consult with NCDOA Facility Mgmt. regarding electrical circuit capacity.
- ◆ All space heaters are required to have certification of an independent testing laboratory, a thermostat and a tip over safety shut off feature.
- ◆ Space heaters must be kept at least three feet away from combustibles (papers, file boxes, clothing and rugs) at all times. Space heaters shall not be used under desks unless this space requirement is met.
- ◆ Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they, or their electrical cord, may pose a tripping hazard.
- ◆ Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. (Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.)
- ◆ Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- ◆ Operating space heaters should never be left unattended. They are required to be turned off and unplugged at the end of the work day or whenever the employee leaves the room.

For additional information:

[https://files.nc.gov/ncoshr/documents/files/Space Heater Program.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/ncoshr/documents/files/Space_Heater_Program.pdf)