



Portable Space Heater Safety

Based on 2019-2023 annual averages, space heaters and heating stoves were responsible for more than one-quarter (29%) of heating-related fires, nearly eight out of ten deaths (77%), seven out of ten (71%) of the injuries, and the largest share of dollar loss (48%) in home fires caused by heating equipment. Nearly half of the heating equipment fires (46%) occurred in the three-month period from December through February.

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord or power strip.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when not in use.
- Ensure your space heater has the following safety features:
 1. Tip-Over Switch: This feature shuts the unit off if it's tipped over.
 2. Automatic shut-off/Overheat protection: Automatically shuts down the unit in the case of overheating.

For more information, contact the Santa Fe County Fire Prevention/Risk Reduction Office at (505) 995-6517 or email: fireprevention@santafecountynm.gov

