

Space Heater Safety

Space heaters are common forms of heating, but like many heating sources do pose potential fire hazards. If you have a space heater in your home, the American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) recommends following these safety tips:

- Keep the heater at least **three feet away** from combustibles (curtains, newspapers, blankets, etc.).
- **Never leave a space heater turned on** while you are sleeping or away from the home.
- Use only as a **supplemental** heat source.
- Place the heater on a **flat surface**.
- **Don't use in bathrooms** or near water.
- Keep **pets and children** away from space heaters.
- Don't use an **extension cord** to power the heater, unless it is a heavy duty cord. Always **inspect the heater's cord** before using.
- If your heater runs on fuel, turn it off and let the heater cool down before refueling. Make sure to **only fill the heater with the appropriate fuel**.

Space Heater Stats

December through February is the most dangerous time for home fires, with nearly 50% of all home fires occurring during these three months. Of those fires, more than 30% are caused by space heaters.

Fires caused by space heaters have a very high reported fatality rate of 81%, as compared to fires caused by fireplaces, which report just 6% of fire related deaths.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fires caused by space heaters during the past four years accounted for:

- Almost **20,000 fires**
- More than **390 deaths**
- More than **1,130 injuries**
- Property damage in excess of **\$460 million**



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