

# Space Heater Safety

Keeping your home warm during the peak winter months can be a challenge. Space heaters can be an effective supplemental heating source for one room of your home, but we must remember they pose potential fire hazards too. Unfortunately, space heater fires are common and costly.

**80%** of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters.



**32%** of home heating fires are caused by space heaters.

**24%**

of home heating fire deaths were due to space heaters placed too closely to items such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.

**50%**

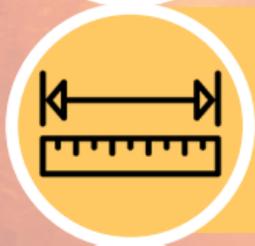
of all home heating fires occur in the winter months (December, January and February).

**33%** of

American households estimate they have at least six minutes before a house fire becomes life-threatening. The actual time is three minutes.



**Keep it Level** – Always place the space heater on a hard, level and nonflammable surface.



**Remember the Three Feet Rule** – Ensure the space heater is at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.



**Keep it a Kid-Free Zone** – Keep children and pets away from space heaters.



**Don't Leave it Running** – Never leave a space heater on when you leave the area or go to sleep.



**Smoke Alarms Save Lives** – Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly.



**Avoid Using an Extension Cord** – Plug a space heater directly into an outlet with enough capacity.



**Stay Away From Water** – Keep the space heater out of the bathroom and away from ALL water.



**Check the Cord** – Always check the space heater cord before plugging it in. The cord should be in good condition and fully intact.



American Trauma Society, PA Division  
2 Flowers Drive, Mechanicsburg PA 17050  
717.766.1616 • [atspa@atspa.org](mailto:atspa@atspa.org)