

Use of Portable Space Heaters Policy

Auburn University recognizes that individuals have different levels of comfort associated with temperature. The use of electric space heaters is a temporary measure and is permitted provided the following procedures are followed. Facilities Division should be contacted if there is inadequate heat in any work area.

1. Space heaters are not permitted in University dormitories or apartments.
2. Space heaters must be electrically powered except as noted in item # 3 below.
3. Fuel powered or propane space heaters are only permissible in construction sites and athletic facilities upon approval of the Risk Management and Safety Fire Safety Program Manager.
4. Any space heaters used must be UL or FM approved and must be labeled accordingly.
5. Space heaters must have a thermostat that shuts off the unit when a certain temperature is reached.
6. Space heaters must have a tip over shut down feature. If a space heater is knocked over the unit must automatically shut off.
7. Space heaters should be rated not to exceed 120 Volts, 12.5 Amps, 60 Hz, 1500 Watts and 5200 BTU's.
8. Space heaters must be kept at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials such as files, curtains, and trash cans.
9. Space heaters shall not be placed under desk or in other enclosed areas.
10. Nothing shall be placed on top or touching a space heater.
11. Space heaters must be turned off and unplugged when the area being used is not occupied. When unplugging, pull by the plug and not the cord.
12. Space heaters must always be plugged directly into a 120-volt wall receptacle when in use. Extension cords cannot be used with space heaters.
13. Do not operate space heaters with a damaged electrical cord.
14. Do not run space heater's electrical cord under carpeting or throw rugs.
15. Space heaters shall not be used in bathrooms, laundry areas or other areas where water is present.

16. Space heaters shall not be used in areas where gasoline, paint or flammable liquids are stored.
17. Space heaters must be kept in good working condition. Replace missing guards and controls at once. Have the heater checked periodically and all necessary repairs done by a qualified person.
18. Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
19. If a space heater trips a circuit breaker, report this to Facilities Work Management Center (844-4357) immediately.
20. Risk Management and Safety reserves the right to inspect and require removal of any space heater that creates a hazard or is inappropriate to a particular location based on specific circumstances, codes and/or legal requirements.

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Kenneth D. Harrison, Fire Safety Program Manager (844-4870).

Approved: 10-28-02