



Fire Department

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MEDIA ADVISORY **SPACE HEATERS**

Due to the high costs of heating fuels (natural gas and oil), not everyone can afford to pay for their utilities. Therefore, when it gets cold, this forces some people to seek a secondary method of heating.

A furnace that is supplied by natural gas or other heating fuel is normally the primary heating source. Space heaters are the most popular secondary heating source. Nationally, heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January, and February.

The Milwaukee Fire Department urges people who use space heaters to follow the following safety tips issued by the National Fire Protection Agency.

- Ø **Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.**
- Ø **Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room or go to bed.**
- Ø **When turning a heating device on or off, follow the manufacturer 's instructions. When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shut-offs.**
- Ø **Use only electrical heaters indoors; do not use liquid-fueled devices indoors.**
- Ø **If you have a fireplace, have the chimney cleaned and checked by a professional.**
- Ø **Have and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.**

The Milwaukee Fire Department is committed to reducing fire loss and eliminating fire fatalities in our community.

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