

# Portable Space Heater Safety

Portable electric space heaters are used to warm offices and residential units to a comfortable temperature. While these heaters keep you warm, they also come with some fire risk. As the winter approaches, please review the safety tips to ensure a safe work and living environment.

## *Approved Portable Space Heater Description:*

- Space heater is electric
- Space heater is approved and labeled by a nationally recognized agency
- Space heater has the standard 120 voltage rating
- Space heater cannot exceed 1500 watt capacity
- Space heater will automatically shut off when it reaches certain temperatures
- Ensure the portable space heater is equipped with "tip over protection" which will automatically shut off the unit should it be knocked over or fall
- Check with manufacturer of your portable heater to ensure no recalls have been made on your model
- Before using the space heater, read and follow the instructions on operation and maintenance

## *Portable Space Heater Safety Tips:*

- Space heaters cannot be plugged into extension cords, surge protectors or multi-outlet boxes
- Never run the space heater's cord under rugs, carpeting or furniture
- Space heaters cannot be used in student housing
- Space heaters must maintain a 3 foot circumference from any combustible materials any in plain sight. Space heaters can easily ignite paper, cloth and other lightweight material. They can also ignite items such as desks and furniture.
- Space heaters must be a minimum of 6' feet from any water source
- Space heaters can never be used near flammable or explosive materials
- Never leave the space heater operating unattended
- All portable space heaters must be approved. Click [here](#) for the approval form.
- Contact the University Fire Marshal with any questions:
  - o [ccolson@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ccolson@georgiasouthern.edu)
  - o (912) 478-7165

Approved portable space heater (UL approved):



Unsafe condition:



# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



## PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



## PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



## LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ! **One quarter** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

**Name of Organization Here**

**Contact Information Here**



# Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



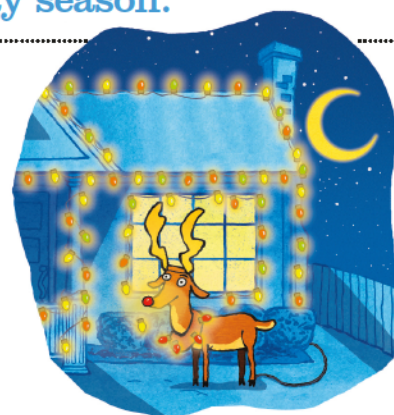
## HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



## Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## FACTS

- ! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Nearly half** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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