

State Auto® Claims and Risk Engineering

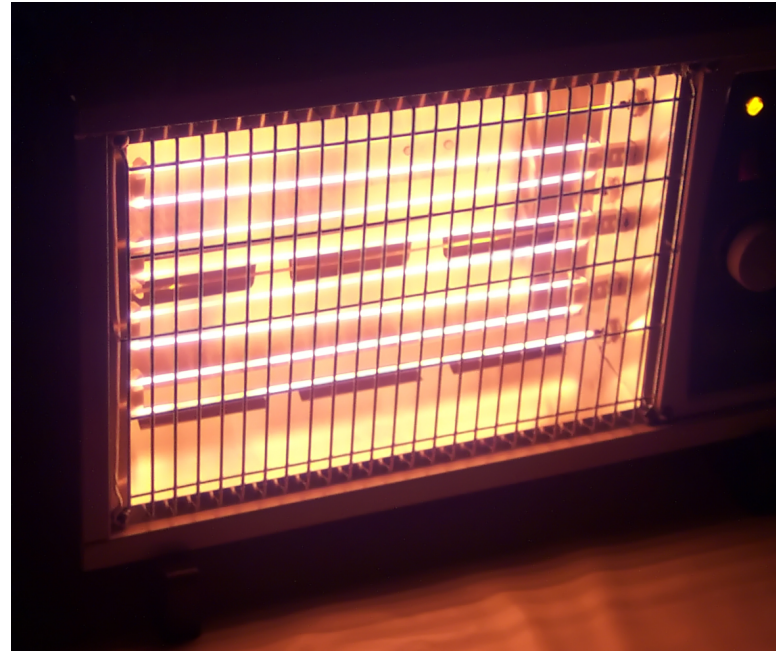
Space Heater Safety Tips

During cold weather months, space heaters are commonly used. However, if used incorrectly or not as intended, a fire could start, an electrical shock could occur, and carbon monoxide may be produced if the heater burns fuel.

To better control these hazards, consider following these standard best practices and tips to stay safe.

Suggested Guidelines:

- Space heaters should be listed with UL® (Underwriters Laboratories®) or CSA® (Canadian Standards Association®).
- Before use, all heaters should be inspected closely for damages to ensure they are in good working order.
- Maintain a clearance of at least 36 Inches around each heater.
- Combustibles and flammables should not be in the area.
- Do not place heaters in high-traffic areas where they can cause trips or falls on the cord or heater.
- Frayed or damaged electrical cords should never be used.
- Plug the unit directly into an electrical socket. Do not use in conjunction with power strips or extension cords.
- Do not run cords across walkways or under rugs.
- Heaters should never be left unattended. Turn off and unplug the heater whenever you leave the room or go to bed.
- Ensure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working order and functioning properly before using a space heater.



Fuel-Fired Space Heaters:

If using a fuel-fired heater, consider the following:

- An annual inspection by a certified technician to properly adjust and clean.
- Follow all manufacturer's instructions and maintenance schedules such as:
 - Inspect the built-in safety devices (oxygen depletion, tip over, and touch sensors).
 - Inspect fuel lines and tanks for possible damage, corrosion, and possible leaks
 - Before turning on or lighting the heater, make sure the controls are working properly.
 - Inspect the exhaust fan for blockage.
 - Look at all gaskets and vents, and check for any possible corrosion, possible blockage, or holes.
 - Inspect for damage and do not use if damaged.

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