

# Space Heater Safety Tips from Port Arthur Fire Department



Port Arthur Fire Department (PAFD) would like to encourage community residents to practice space heater safety as we begin to experience colder weather. Practicing home space heater safety will keep the community safe and comfortable during the upcoming cooler months. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire fatalities. Space heaters account for almost 90% of heating-related deaths. NFPA has also identified that November, December, January, and February account for nearly half of residential fires from heating equipment.

Following these suggestions will keep you and your family safer:

- Plug an electric heater into a power outlet, not a power strip or extension cord. 🖱️
- Inspect the electric cord for any damage or loose connections before plugging it in.
- Place space heaters on solid, flat surfaces out of the way from high-traffic areas and doors. 🚪
- Use space heaters with an automatic shutoff if they are accidentally tipped over.
- Keep all space heaters at least 3 feet away from combustible items like walls, curtains, furniture, and particularly beds. 🛏️
- Portable space heaters should be turned off when you leave the room and before bed.

- Only use UL or Factory Mutual-approved heaters.



**A major contributing factor to space heater fire deaths is heaters being too close to items that can burn.** Ensure you have operating smoke detectors in your home. Smoke detectors give you an early warning to exit the house if something catches fire. In the event of a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to leave your home.

Contact PAFD at [firepreventon@portarthurtx.gov](mailto:firepreventon@portarthurtx.gov) or call the Fire Marshal's Office, 409-983-8737 with questions, or, for Port Arthur residents, a free smoke detector for your home. PAFD will deliver the smoke detector, if needed. PAFD is here to provide you with life safety information, education, and training to make our community safer.