



Newsletter

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009

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Winter Safety: Keeping Your Home Safe and Warm

Winter is here, and when it comes to heating our homes it is important to put safety first.

With the high cost of home heating fuels and utilities, many Marylanders are left searching for alternative sources of heat for their home. Space heaters have become a popular option, but like many alternative home heating devices, when used improperly space heaters can greatly increase your risk of a home fire.

Each year, more than 25,000 residential fires occur because of improper use of portable space heaters. Many of these fires can be prevented, so if you do choose to use a space heater in your home this winter it is important you take the following precautions:

- **Use heaters that have been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.**
- **Keep at least three feet of open space around all portable heaters and away from combustible materials, including furniture, bedding, clothing, etc.**
- **Keep space heaters away from water.**
- **Do not use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised.**
- **Do not use space heaters with extension cords; plug the heaters directly into an outlet.**
- **Space heaters have hot parts that can cause sparking: Do not use them near flammable liquids**
- **Remember to turn off and unplug heaters when not in use, when you are out of the room and when you are asleep.**
- **Always place the heater on the floor, never on a chair, kitchen counter, table or elevated surface.**
- **Never use a gas stove, electric range or a charcoal grill as a space heater.**
- **Check the cord before plugging in the heater. If frayed, worn, or broken, do not use it.**
- **For extra pre-caution buy a space heater that shuts off automatically if it falls over.**

Finally, no matter what season it is, always make sure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and outside every bedroom, or sleeping area. Additionally, make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide alarm installed in a central location and outside each sleeping area.

Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

UP-COMING CONFERENCES TO LOOK FOR

The 3rd annual State-wide trauma symposium
Thursday, April 30th, 2009
Baltimore Hilton Hotel.
Keynote: Dr. Ellen MacKenzie, ★
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Visit the Partnership Website for more information:
<http://www.healthymaryland.org/safermaryland>




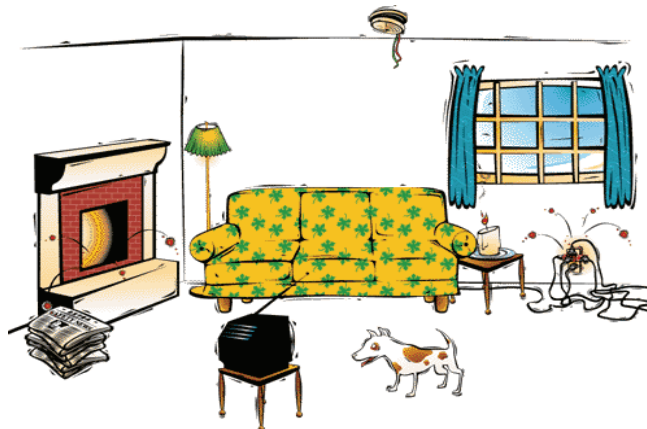
SPACE HEATER SAFETY:



Fire Safety Tips

- ◆ Keep a portable or space heater away from drapes, furniture or other flammable materials
- ◆ When buying any portable or space heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as, *Underwriter's Laboratories Inc (UL)*.
- ◆ Place the heater on a level surface, away from areas where someone might bump or knock the heater over.
- ◆ Do not use space heaters with extension cords; plug the heaters directly into an outlet.
- ◆ Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.
- ◆ Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.

 **And remember to always have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, and outside each bedroom, or sleeping area**



For more information visit:

US Fire Administration Public Education Campaigns - Safety Tip Sheet at: www.firesafety.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency United States Fire Administration at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>