



# CIRSA HAZARD ALERT

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Your Partner in Risk Management

## Power Strips and Electric Space Heaters Do Not Play Well Together

With colder temperatures, people tend to look to electric space heaters to take the chill off. These units can be used if they are:

- Approved by your facilities staff or your supervisor
- Are UL tested/listed (or other nationally recognized testing laboratory)
- Have tip-over/overheat protection
- Are used away from water, due to the lack of GFCI protection
- Have adequate open space all around them (at least three feet from combustible materials, children, and pets)
- Are turned off when not attended, and...
- Are plugged directly into a wall outlet, **NEVER** a power strip.

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Power strips are not designed to handle the current needed for a space heater, which can overheat and possibly catch fire. The Electrical Safety Foundation states that all space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet and never a power strip or extension cord.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires and more than 300 deaths are caused each year by space heaters, and more than 6,000 Americans receive hospital emergency room care annually for burn injuries because of space heater use.

So, stay warm **AND SAFE** by using electric space heaters and power strips properly.