



CIRSA HAZARD ALERT

Published by the CIRSA Risk Control Department

SAFER TOGETHER

Hazard Alert – Electrical Power Strips & Space Heaters



Credit: Umatilla County Fire District #1/Facebook

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 another 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 unattended
- Are plugged directly into a wall outlet, **NEVER** a power strip.

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Electrical Power Strips & Space Heaters (cont.)

Power strips are not designed to handle the electrical current needed for a space heater which can overheat and possibly catch fire. The [Electrical Safety Foundation](#) states that space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet and never a power strip or extension cord. No other electrical devices should be plugged into the same outlet as the heater.

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 as a result of space heater use.

To stay warm **AND SAFE**, make sure to use electric space heaters and power strips properly.