



## Space Heaters - Oh How Hot Are They?

**Happy New Year!!!** It is amazing how on this first day of winter I sit here in shorts and flip flops wondering what the beach conditions are due to the warm temperatures that we have been experiencing. As we all know, the weather in Texas can change at the flip of a switch, and before you know it we will have temperatures around the freezing mark. As the temperatures fall, people will go and dig out their trusty space heaters and fire them up in hopes of taking the chill out of their home or office. I am sure we are all aware of the danger that comes along with using space heaters, and below are some statistics and tips from the National Fire Protection Association to help drive that point home and keep you safe this winter season.

### Space Heater Statistics

- 32% of home heating fires are caused by space heaters.
- 80% of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters.
- Space heaters are the cause of an estimated 19,300 structure fires a year that result in \$559 million dollars in property damage.
- 24% of home heating fire deaths were caused because space heaters were placed too close to items such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses, or bedding.
- Leading factors contributing to home space heater fires were failure to clean, which is principally related to creosote build-up in chimneys, and leaving an operating space heater unattended.

### Safety tips when using electric space heaters

- Use the three foot "kid free zone" around space heaters.
- Turn off heaters when you go to leave the room or go to bed.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters that come equipped with an automatic shut off, that way in the event the appliance is tipped over it will shut off.
- Place the heater on a flat, solid surface.
- Plug the power cord directly into outlets and never use an extension cord.
- Inspect the space heater before using for cracks, broken plugs, or loose connections.
- Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly.

### Safety tips for fuel burning space heaters

- Always use the manufacture recommended fuel for the space heater.
- When refueling, make sure that the appliance is cool and refuel outside or in a well ventilated area.
- When using the heater, make sure and window is cracked to ensure proper ventilation.
- Get rid of your old and outdated space heater. All new, unvented, gas fired space heaters have an oxygen depletion sensor that detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating and shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide fills the room.
- In the event that the pilot light goes out, allow five minutes or more for the gas to dissipate, this will prevent flashbacks.
- If you smell gas in your heater, do not attempt to light the device. Turn it off and open doors and windows to allow the area to ventilate.
- Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly.

**The next time you go to use your space heater, make sure and remember these safety tips to help keep you and your family safe. From all of us at the Gerloff Company, we would like to wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.**

# January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 News Years Day Office Closed	2
3	4	5 SAMA Luncheon	6	7 ACA Luncheon	8	9
10	11	12 CAI Luncheon SACA Luncheon	13 Hill Country M&O AAFAME	14 IREM Luncheon	15	16
17	18	19	20 IIASA Luncheon AASMOSA Social	21 CAMO Meeting Austin BOMA	22	23
24 -----TASA-----	25 --Mid Winter--	26 ----Conference----	27 -----Austin, TX----- SAABE Luncheon SA Boma Lunch	28 IWSA Luncheon	29	30
31						

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- Events**
- January 5: SAMA Luncheon
  - January 7: ACA Luncheon
  - January 12: CAI Luncheon
  - January 12: SACA Luncheon
  - January 13: AAFAME Luncheon
  - January 14: IREM Luncheon
  - January 20: IIASA Luncheon
  - January 20: AASMOSA Social
  - January 21: CAMO Meeting
  - January 21: Austin BOMA
  - January 24-27: TASA Mid Winter Conference
  - January 27: SAABE Luncheon
  - January 27: SA BOMA
  - January 28: IWSA Luncheon

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