

Space heater safety tips from Nationwide

Don't zone out on heaters!

Space heaters fires are common and costly.

What you should know:

- 80% of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters
- 32% of home heating fires are caused by space heaters

Space heaters are the cause of an estimated:

- 19,300 reported U.S. home structure fires
- 360 civilian deaths
- 1,020 civilian injuries
- \$559 million in direct property damage

24% of home heating fire deaths were due to space heaters placed too close to items such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.

50% of all home heating fires occur in the winter (December, January and February).

33% of American households estimate they have at least six minutes before a house fire becomes life-threatening. The actual time is three minutes.

Over five years, Nationwide Insurance paid more than \$48 million in space heater claims. Average claim was \$40,000.

What you should do

- Keep in level – always place the space heater on a hard, level and nonflammable surface.
- Remember the three feet rule – ensure the space heater is at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Keep it a kid-free zone – keep children and pets away from space heaters.

- Don't leave it running – never leave a space heater on when you leave.
- Protect with smoke alarms – install working smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly.
- Don't extend yourself – avoid using an extension cord. Plug a space heater directly into an outlet with enough capacity.

For these and more safety tips go to: <http://www.nationwide.com/space-heater-safety.jsp> and www.nfpa.org.

*Source: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)