Prescriptions for Prevention

Space Heater Safety

Did you know?

Space heaters cause an average of 1,700 fires and 80 deaths each year. If you are using a space heater, it is important to use it safely.

Action Plan

- Keep the space heater at least 3 feet away from curtains, furniture, or anything that can catch on fire. Never hang clothes over a space heater to dry
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the space heater to prevent burns or extreme heat exposure.
- Place the heater on a bare, uncarpeted floor. Do NOT place it on a table, rug, or other surface.
- Plug directly into a wall outlet. Do NOT use an extension cord or power strip, as this could lead to overloading and cause a fire
- Turn off or unplug the heater when not in the room and when sleeping.
- Gas/kerosene space heaters can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide, which can be deadly so they should not be used indoors. Never use gasoline in a space heater because it can explode.
- Make sure there is a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector on each level where you are using a space heater and on each level where people are sleeping. Ensure that the batteries are working.
- Space heaters should not be your main heating source.

Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health
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Resources

Tenants' Rights

Under Pennsylvania State law, tenants have the right to a livable apartment, which includes access to proper heating. Landlords are required to maintain proper heat and meet specific temperature requirements during the winter months. Notify your landlord in writing if you don't have enough heat. **Call 311** or click this link to report the issue to the **City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections**. For additional legal assistance offered by the **Community Legal Services of Philadelphia** click this link or scan the QR code:

Energy Assistance Programs

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) provides information on Energy Assistance Programs to assist qualified residents with paying their utilities. Click this link or scan the QR code:

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) provides cash grants to help Pennsylvanians pay their heating bills. To apply, click this link or scan the QR code:

Fire/Heater Safety Guidance

It is important to have an escape plan in the case of a fire. For important winter heating fire safety tips click this link or scan the QR code:

Questions? Contact the Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health at:
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