

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Homeowner Safety



*We Take A Personal
Interest - Protecting
What You Value Most®*

For more information
contact your local agent:

1-877-840-4400

www.anpac.com

Space Heater Safety

During cold weather, many individuals and businesses turn to portable space heaters for supplemental heat. Although these units provide flexibility and efficiency, they can be hazardous if not used correctly.

Improper use of space heaters can result in fire damage to buildings and personal property. Improper use can also lead to severe burns, other bodily injury or even death.

Only use a space heater according to the manufacturer's instructions. Consider the safety suggestions below:

- Confirm the unit you're using is "UL" approved and in proper working condition.
- Never leave a space heater unattended or go to sleep with one operating.
- Only use the space heater according to the instructions provided in the owner's manual.
- Allow a minimum of 3' between the heater and flammable materials including furniture, drapes and walls.
- When using fuel burning heaters, allow for adequate ventilation and install carbon monoxide detectors in the area(s) of use. Fuel burning heaters should not be used in a room where there are flammable solvents, aerosol sprays, lacquers, fuel or oil containers.
- Never fill a kerosene heater while it is burning and clean up any overfills or spillage before re-igniting.
- Keep children away from the immediate vicinity and never allow them to touch the system. Consider safety cages to keep children and small pets at a distance.
- Plug electric space heaters directly into wall outlets instead of using extension cords. If an extension cord is necessary, avoid areas with high foot traffic and running the cord under carpets or rugs.
- Make sure the unit is placed on a solid, even surface.
- Keep electric space heaters away from water and never use them in a bathroom.
- Never place a space heater directly on a carpet or rug.

The information printed herein was obtained from sources believed to be reliable. American National, its affiliates and employees assume no liability in connection with the information or the safety suggestions provided. These recommendations are general in nature. Unique circumstances may not require implementation of some or all of the safety suggestions. There may be additional available safety procedures that are not referenced in this handout.

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Inspections and Maintenance

It's important to complete a thorough inspection of all space heaters at the beginning of each season. Each inspection should consider the following items:

- Condition of fuel lines and tanks
- Condition of all safety guards
- Condition of exhaust systems
- Burner efficiency
- Condition of electrical cords
- Overall cleanliness of unit

Never try to repair a heater yourself. Call a certified technician.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that is produced by the partial oxidation of carbon containing materials. This toxic gas, which is produced by fuel burning space heaters, can reach fatal levels if adequate ventilation is not provided.

When using a space heater indoors, be aware of the early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, including:

- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Weakness/Fatigue
- Confusion

If you or anyone else experiences any of these symptoms during exposure to a space heater, get fresh air immediately.

**For more on space heater safety, visit the
Insurance Information Institute Web sit at www.iii.org.**



No one wants to think about suffering a loss. In the unfortunate event you do have a loss, our **ANPAC Five Star Claim Service®** is designed to provide assurance and confidence to our policyholders throughout the claims process.

24-Hour Claims Hotline 1-800-333-2860