

# Using Electric Space Heaters at College of DuPage

## What You Should Know About Space Heaters:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters. More than 300 persons die in these fires. An estimated 6,000 persons receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of space heaters, mostly in non-fire situations. While manufacturers have generally had their space heaters tested, usually by Underwriters Laboratory or a similar agency, to minimize the chance of fire resulting from the normal use of the product in the home, College of DuPage has additional requirements because of the nature of the facility. To avoid confusion and improve fire and personal safety, the following uniform guidelines have been developed for the site as a whole, including both office and instructional areas. The use of electric space heaters is permitted, as a **temporary measure**, if the following requirements are met:

## Use Requirements:

- Facilities Operations and Maintenance Department has been contacted and determined that the HVAC system cannot maintain the area at the college's standard temperature.

## Space Heater Requirements:

A space heater that, by design, has no external surfaces that reach temperatures capable of igniting material placed against the surface of the device.

The device must meet the following specifications:

- Underwriters Laboratory (UL) Listed.
- Use only oil-filled or ceramic type heaters.
- Have a three prong (grounded) plug.
- Equipped with a "tip-over" safety switch.
- Maintain three feet of clearance required around all space heaters. NOTHING may be placed on, over, above, or around a space heater.
- Not consume more than 1,000 Watts of power.
- Equipped with on-off switch and be thermostatically controlled.
- Plug directly into the electrical receptacle.
- Unit must be turned off and unplugged when left unattended.

## Restrictions and Prohibitions:

The following types and uses of portable space heaters are prohibited:

- Gas, oil, kerosene or other fossil fuel burning space heaters.
- Exposed heating elements or elements that glow bright orange to red.
- Electrical cords which are damaged or frayed including spliced, taped, or exposed wires and connections.
- Electric extension cords with space heaters.
- Laboratory use is prohibited.