

Portable Electric

Space Heaters

EHS BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

All Portable Electric Space Heaters used on university property:

- Shall be identified with the Underwriters Listed (UL) and/or Factory Mutual approved certification markings.
- Shall be equipped with thermostat, overheat protection, and tip over shut-off safety features.
- Shall be kept a minimum of 3 feet (36 inches) from all combustible materials e.g. file cabinets, desks, trash cans, paper boxes, etc.
- **NEVER** use heaters under desks or other confined/enclosed areas.
- Heaters must be unplugged during non-business hours and turned off when you temporarily leave the area.
- **NEVER** operate a heater in sleeping rooms.
- Plug into receptacle directly. *NEVER* plug into an extension cord and never run electrical cord through walls, ceilings, and under carpets.
- Heaters missing guards, control knobs, feet, etc. shall be removed from service immediately.
- Keep space heaters away from exit ways, walkways, and paths of travel/egress.
- Do not use heaters in wet areas like bathrooms or kitchens or where small children or animals are expected in the area.
- <u>Open-coil space</u> heaters are **NOT** permitted in any university buildings (Figure 1).
- Space heaters of any type are prohibited in laboratories or where volatile chemicals or gases are used.
- Portable Electric Space Heaters operated unsafely may be confiscated by the Fire Marshal (NFPA 1, Fire Code, Section 11.5.3).

When using university funds, all portable electric space heaters shall be purchased through the university's facilities storeroom (storeroom@ksu.edu or 785-532-2049) and shall be the oil-filled radiant type (*Figure 2*)

If you have questions, or need additional information, contact K-State's Fire Marshal at 785.532.3473 for assistance.



Figure 1 Example of a coil space heater



Figure 2 Example of an Oil-Filled Radiant Heater