

University of Southern Indiana Space Heater safety

In an effort to reduce the risk of fires at USI the Environmental Health and Safety Office has developed these recommendations for the safe use of space heaters on campus.

The purpose of a space heater is to supply supplemental heat to a small space for a short period of time. The Physical Plant should be contacted (464-1700) if increased heat is needed in an area on a permanent basis.

In an effort to minimize fire risk and reduce energy consumption **it is preferred that space heaters are not used at all.** To utilize a space heater for temporary, supplemental heat, all of the following recommendations should be followed:

1. Unit must be UL listed.
2. Unit can only be used in an office space.
3. Unit must be plugged directly into a hard-wired electrical wall outlet (no extension cords or power strips under any circumstance). Contact the Physical Plant to ensure the electrical circuit will not become overloaded.
4. Unit must be positioned a **minimum of 3' from any combustible material.**
5. Unit must have a thermostat.
6. Unit must have a safety "tip-over" shut-off.
7. Unit must be **continuously supervised and an unattended unit should be unplugged.**
8. Liquid fueled space heaters of any type shall not be used.
Salamander/Torpedo heaters for internal construction projects will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Questions concerning these recommendations may be addressed to the University Manager of Environmental Health and Safety at 812-461-5393.