

Alternate Heating Source Safety Tips

- Keep at least three feet of clearance between your alternate heat source and anything combustible.
- Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep, and never leave children or pets unattended near heating sources.
- Only use heaters that have been tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features, such as automatic shut-offs. It is important to install and use heaters according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it.
- Keep the heater in safe working condition. Replace missing guards and controls at once. **Never** operate a defective heater.
- Don't place the heater where children might play near it or where people might trip over or bump into it.
- Place the heater on a level surface for stability.
- Regardless of the type of heating system you have, install and maintain a smoke alarm in each bedroom of your home, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home.
- Purchase a heater with a guard around the heating element. A wire grill or other protection is essential to keep fingers or fabrics from touching the hot element.
- Before using the heater, read and follow the instructions for its operation and maintenance.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy duty cord marked with a # 14 gauge or larger wire. An incorrectly-sized cord may create a fire hazard. If the heater's plug has a grounding prong, use only a grounding (three-wire) extension cord.
- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs or carpeting.
- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water and never touch an electric heater if you are wet.