

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA - FAIRBANKS**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Portable Heaters	<b>Number: 1210</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	To Provide Guidance and Direction on the use of Portable Heaters.	<b>Adoption Date: Dec. 1998</b> <b>Revision Dates:</b>

**I. Policy**

The University of Alaska Fairbanks, discourages the use of portable space heaters in University interior locations for the following reasons:

- As sources of ignition, space heaters can create fire hazards
- Space heaters are not as energy efficient as central heating
- The electric cord creates a tripping hazard
- The heaters overload the circuits

**II. Exception**

University personnel may use portable space heaters if the building heating system is inadequate, nonexistent, or temporarily out-of-order. The University Fire Department has approved the following types of space heaters for emergency use by University departments:

- heaters tested and approved by FM, UL or any other nationally recognized testing lab
- heaters must automatically shut off if they are tipped over
- heaters that use 1500 watts or less of electricity

**III. Prohibited Heaters**

Do not use the following types of heaters in University buildings:

- An electric heater with electric elements that glow bright orange or red. This heater distributes energy as high radiant heat and uses 1500 watts or more of electricity.
- A heater that burns fossil fuels or alcohol.

**IV. Heater Use**

When it is necessary to utilize a portable heater in a University building always follow these precautions:

- place noncombustible material under the appliance
- maintain a clearance of at least 12 inches between the appliance and any combustible material
- ensure that the appliance is properly grounded or double-insulated

- keep area immediately around an appliance clean and free of combustibles
- do not use electric appliance near combustible or explosive vapors or dust
- heaters should be plugged directly into wall outlets not into extension cords
- do not leave heaters unattended, turn them off when you leave

**V. Responsibility**

The use of portable heaters is the responsibility of the individual users. Damages caused by the misuse or improper use of any portable heater may result in the user being held liable for all damages.