



# Space Heaters



*Don't wait for the cold weather to get your space heaters inspected/serviced!*

## The Richardson Fire Department recommends these safety tips on heating devices...

### Space Heaters:

- ⇒ Open-faced heaters should have a proper screen and grate in place. Small children may be attracted to the flame.
- ⇒ Keep all combustible materials and yourself at least three feet away from the heater. Even a slight brush against a heater could ignite your clothing.
- ⇒ Provide adequate ventilation, opening a window slightly (one inch) to prevent carbon monoxide build up.

*Note: if your flame is not blue, it is not burning properly. It is producing carbon monoxide which can't be seen, smelt or tasted. TURN IT OFF.*

- ⇒ Use flexible metal tubing with threaded ends to connect the heater to the gas valve. There should be a cut-off valve for the heater at the wall.

*Never use a rubber hose to connect a space heater to the gas valve.*

- ⇒ Use soapy water to check all connections and valves for leaks.

*Never use a match to test for a gas leak.*

- ⇒ Look for American Gas Association label and follow the manufacturers recommendations for proper usage.
- ⇒ Vented gas/fired heating appliances (central heating units, floor furnaces, recessed wall heaters and vented space heaters) should be inspected annually by a qualified service technician.
- ⇒ Do not store combustibles within three feet of heaters or their vents. Do not use units without a proper vent pipe. *Vent pipes must exhaust outside.*

### Electric Heaters:

- ⇒ Never overload outlets or breakers.
- ⇒ Don't use extension cords on the heater.
- ⇒ If the cord is hot to touch, turn off the heater and unplug it!
- ⇒ Keep all combustible materials and yourself at least three feet away from the heater.
- ⇒ Electric heaters permanently installed in the wall or ceiling should have lint and dust removed regularly. Lint and dust built up will burn.

