

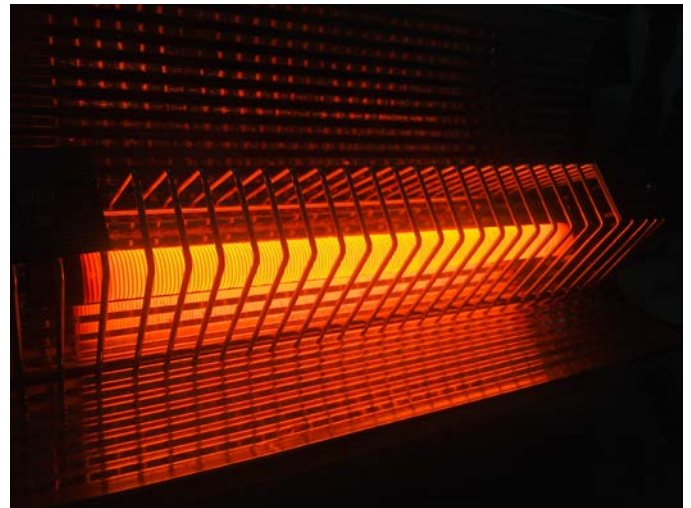
SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

WINTER HEATING SAFETY

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our classrooms and offices. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat just one room. According to the National Fire Protection Association, two in five deaths in space heater fires involve portable electric space heaters. Because space heaters pose a high risk and have a much greater potential for accidental fires, ASCIP recommends members do not allow them. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters at home (or at work **only after receiving prior approval from school administration**), follow these tips:

Electric Portable Space Heaters

- ❖ Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- ❖ Register the product and check for recalls at www.saferproducts.gov or www.cpsc.gov.
- ❖ Confirm that the unit is in good working order (3-pronged plug, no exposed wires on cord).
- ❖ Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- ❖ Place the heater on a solid, flat surface. Make sure the heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over or is over-heated.
- ❖ Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit!
- ❖ Keep students (or other children) away from the space heater.
- ❖ Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Do not plug another electrical device or an extension cord into the same outlet as a heater—that can cause overheating.
- ❖ Turn off and unplug space heaters when you leave the room.



Home Safety – Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Often referred to as the *invisible killer*, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- ❖ Install working CO alarms in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home.
- ❖ Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ❖ If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure to account for everyone inside the home. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.

Helping to keep our member's employees safe! This Safety Spotlight brought to you by: