



## **Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs Council**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **Space Heaters**

According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters are the leading cause of home fires during December, January and February. When used improperly, space heaters that are gas-fueled, kerosene-fueled, or electric, fixed or portable, wood stoves and fireplaces all can lead to serious injury or death.

Such disasters can be prevented by utilizing the following safety tips:

- When buying a portable or fixed space heater, make sure it carries the mark of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers instructions when utilizing home heating equipment. Make sure that wood stoves are properly installed.
- Have your fireplace, wood, or coal stove professionally inspected each year and that the unit is cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Keep portable space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.
- When buying space heaters, make sure that they include an automatic shutoff feature in case the unit becomes over heated or tips over.

- More -

- Be sure any gas-fueled heating device is properly ventilated to protect from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs urge all residents of the greater Kansas City area to use extreme caution when using space heaters. Contact your local Fire Department if you have any questions.

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