

# MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

## SPACE HEATER SAFETY

We are anticipating unseasonably cold weather this weekend. Are you ready?

Based on 2007-2011 annual averages:

**Space heaters**, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) of home heating fire deaths.

### Space Heaters at Work

#### **IAW BO P5100.1K:**

- Personally-owned portable space heaters are not authorized for use aboard MCLB Albany.

#### **All space heaters used aboard MCLB Albany will be:**

- Government-owned unless used by a contractor in an industrial or construction area.
- UL Listed.
- Used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Not be left unattended while in operation.
- Turned off at the end of the day or shift. Supervisors in industrial or construction areas where space heaters are used will assign two employees to check and verify heaters are turned off when employees depart the area at the end of the day or end of the shift.
- Located in plain view and on the floor in the work area. Space heaters will not be placed under tables, work benches, or hidden from view.
- Located away from water or excessive moisture.
- At least 36 inches (1 meter) away from combustible or flammable material.
- Plugged directly into a wall outlet. Powering any type of space heater through an extension cord is prohibited.

### Space Heaters at Home

- Keep all space heaters at least 3 feet away from household combustibles.
- Keep children and pets away from heaters.
- Use space heaters only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are not intended to replace the home's heating system.
- Look for the UL listing on your electric heater.
- Heaters should be placed on a flat, level floor.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified technician.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters.
- Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord. Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation.
- Do not use in damp, wet areas, unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms.
- **If you have a liquid-fueled space heater**, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could cause a serious fire.
- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly.
- You must have ventilation with liquid fueled heaters to prevent Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to ensure it is legal.



**Risk Management 639-5249**  
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