

Safetygram

NCI-Frederick

ISM-162

General

December 2011

Portable Electric Heaters

With the arrival of cold weather, some may be searching for supplemental heat sources such as a portable electric space heater. These heaters can be small, powerful, and efficient. Heaters may not be used in laboratories. To be used in other areas at this Facility, they must meet certain design and operation criteria. These requirements include:

- Have FME check electrical circuits for capacity to power a heater (x1068).
- Heaters must be connected directly to a receptacle - no extension cords or outlet strips.
- Heaters must have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) approval listing.
- Heaters must be equipped with a safety tip-over feature to ensure it will be turned off in the event it is tipped over.
- Heaters must be equipped with a thermostat/overheat sensor, visible on-off switch and light.
- Keep combustible materials, such as papers or clothes, at least 3 feet away from heaters.
- All heaters must be unplugged or turned completely off before leaving at the end of the day.

The Environment, Health and Safety Program (EHS) staff will attach approval tags to acceptable heaters upon request. These tags indicate that the heaters are permitted for use, and will streamline inspection activities by EHS throughout the NCI-Frederick campus. Contact EHS at x1451 if you have any questions and to arrange for placement of these approval tags.