



# LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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## Portable Space Heaters

### Space Heaters Facts:

Home heating is one of the leading causes of home fires.

In 2011-2015, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 54,030 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated of 480 civilian deaths, 1,470 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage.

Home heating accounted for 15% of all reported home fires between 2011-2015.

The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment,

Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was

the third leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (53%) of home heating fire deaths.

Nearly half (48%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.



### Safety Tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment.
- Never use your oven to

heat your home.

- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

### Always Remember:

- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.

### National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>

## Your own property is concerned when your neighbor's house is on fire. ~Horace

It is a fire hazard to run space heater cords or any other electric cords under rugs, carpeting or furniture. Locate the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic.

Only purchase newer model space heaters that have all of the current safety features. Make sure the heater carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to:

[valdostafire@valdostacity.com](mailto:valdostafire@valdostacity.com)

### Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

WHCOGEEL      Gone      Too

Answers to last month's wuzzles are on the other hand and go to man.

### Fire Safety Quiz

1. Space heaters should be turned off when you go to bed.
  - A. True
  - B. False
2. Space heaters should be plugged \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Directly into the wall outlet
  - B. Into a power strip
  - C. Into an extension cord
  - D. In using a surge protector

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. A. & 2. C.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief