

# SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Many of the buildings aboard base don't have central heating. As cooler weather sets in, your workplace may feel quite cold. Portable electric space heaters will get you through chilly mornings and are in frequent use across the base and in many homes. Check out the base regulations and safety tips listed below to make sure your space heater doesn't become a fire hazard.



## **MCIWEST-MCB CAMPENO 11320.13 - Fire Protection Regulations and Instructions, lists the following requirements:**

- ⇒ The heater must have a safety tilt switch. To check, tip the heater over when it's running. It should cut off immediately.
- ⇒ The heater cannot exceed 1500 Watts. To check, read the label on the heater.
- ⇒ When in use, the heater shall not be left unattended.
- ⇒ Heaters shall not be placed closer than 3 feet from combustible materials or furnishings.
- ⇒ Heater must be certified by a testing laboratory. Look for the marking on the label. (UL for example)
- ⇒ Do not use extension cords or surge protector. Plug heater directly into an outlet.
- ⇒ Turn off heater when leaving the area for any amount of time.

## **Additional Safety Tips for Space Heaters**

- ⇒ Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- ⇒ Read and follow the manufacturer's warnings and instructions.
- ⇒ If the heater has been stored since last use, make sure to clean off dust and dirt before use.
- ⇒ Inspect the heater and power cord for damage before use.
- ⇒ Place the heater on a solid, flat surface. Carpeted floors are ok.
- ⇒ Only plug in one heater per circuit to prevent overload.
- ⇒ Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- ⇒ Keep children away from space heaters.
- ⇒ Unplug the heater when leaving the area.

