

CHIEF JOEL LANGE

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The National Fire Protection Association actually says that 43% of our home heating fires are actually from space heaters. And I feel like we do see a lot of people using space heaters as a supplemental heat. But we've also ran into homes that have used these as primary heat. So I thought it would be appropriate as we go into this weekend to discuss heating our homes safely. And especially as we look at Monday and Tuesday of next week, it's going to be done in a single digit. So the first thing is we need to keep in mind, too, that it's always appropriate that every home should have a smoke detector and a CO detector on every floor of the home.

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A lot of homes use furnace heat. But, again, if we are using space heaters as supplemental heat, it's important to remember, too, that you should never leave these heaters unattended. If you're going to be leaving for the day or going to bed, have to turn these heaters off. Also, they need to be plugged directly into an outlet. We don't want to use any kind of extension cords or anything like that. It should be on its own circuit. Also, if have. If the breaker continues to trip with that electric heater, we need to not just keep turning it on. back on plugging that heater back in we need to switch outlets or switch circuits and have an.

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electrician look at that keep in mind too that you always want to keep things about three feet away any kind of combustible material we want to keep that three feet away from the electric heater this also goes the same to say for solid fuel stoves or fireplaces as well somebody's got a pellet stove wood burner or even a gas burner we need to keep three feet away combustibles need to be that far away from that fireplace so obviously if you have like a drywall or like a stone surface anything non-combustible you just need to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for that.

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and also too if you do heat with gas and oil wouldn't hurt to have a combustible gas monitor as well i know i had mentioned having a co-detector and a smoke detector a combustible gas monitor is going to be looking for if you have propane or natural gas if you do have a leak in the home, typically it's kind of got that rotten egg smell for natural gas if you do smell that we advise that you go outside the home, Call 911. Don't turn on and off switches. Get out of the home immediately and call 911. And we'll get someone out there to verify and check your home and make sure that it's safe.

