Give Space Heaters their space—Keep them at least 3 feet away from combustibles—walls, sofas and anything else that will burn.

- Space heaters should always be placed on the floor.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a space heater and do not let children adjust the controls or move the heater.
- Open-faced heaters should have a proper screen and grates in place—never operate a defective heater.
- Provide adequate ventilation when using a gas space heater, opening a window slightly (one inch) to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
- Never overload outlets or breakers.
- Don’t hide cords under rugs or carpets. Placing anything on top of the cord could cause it to overheat and can cause a fire.
- Don’t use an extension cord with the heater. If the cord is hot to the touch, turn off the heater and unplug it.
- Electric heaters permanently installed in the wall or ceiling should have lint and dust removed regularly. Lint and dust will burn.
- Have your heating system professionally inspected and serviced every year.
- Purchase a Carbon Monoxide detector if you use gas or a fireplace for your heating.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide detector in the hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home.
- If you use a gas space heater, light the match before you turn on the gas. This avoids the risk of flashback caused by accumulating gas.
- According to Houston Fire Department statistics, about 100 fires every year are blamed on faulty furnaces or space heaters.

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A Message from the Columbus Division of Fire