

Portable Heater Usage

Too Hot to Handle....

Cold weather is here, and many people ask, “Can I use a portable space heater?” Answer: No.

For the safety of all, Fire Codes and OHSU policy prohibit the use of space heaters in healthcare areas. OHSU Healthcare’s [Portable Heater Procedure](#) offers the following guidance on usage:

- Buildings where space heaters may not be used: OHS, DCH, KPV, PPV, CEI, MNP, CHH, SJH, HRC (floors 8-14), and all off-campus clinics. Placing space heaters in buildings in which patients are seen or cared for violates fire codes that exist to protect patients, visitors and employees.
- OHSU wants to provide a safe and comfortable environment for patients, employees and visitors. If you have a concern about the temperature settings in your work area, or would like to request a temperature adjustment, please do the following:
 1. Inform your supervisor of your concern and ask him or her to evaluate the situation, recognizing that your colleagues may tolerate cold and heat differently from how you do.
 2. For temperature adjustments at all Marquam Hill locations, fill out an on-line work request for F&RE at:
http://ozone.ohsu.edu/fm/forms/forms_opsmain.shtml.
 3. For temperature adjustments at the CHH building, fill out an on-line work request at: <http://ohsusouthwaterfront.com/home.axis>
 4. For temperature adjustments at off-campus locations, please contact your building/property manager.



Different people are comfortable at different temperatures. It is the responsibility of each employee to dress appropriately. This may include dressing in layers and having a sweater or jacket with you just in case.

Electrical safety tip:

- For any electrical device, do NOT overload electrical circuits.
- If circuit breakers trip, do NOT reset them. Call Facilities Triage (6-6000), or building management, so an electrician can be dispatched to evaluate the problem.

Reference: OHSU Healthcare’s Portable Heater Procedure, Adm 10.02.08, found at:
<http://ozone.ohsu.edu/HealthSystems/Adm10Environ/Adm10-02-08.pdf>