

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

Administrative Interpretation

Incorporates National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 101 and 101A) and Shore Energy Management (OPNAVINST 4100.5E) Policy, Objectives and Guidance

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) prohibits the use of personal space heaters on shore installation property. CNIC permits the use of approved government-issued space heaters. CNIC limits use of government-issued space heaters to only those spaces, which do not have heating capabilities or where documented medical conditions require additional heat.

Commanders use zone inspections, fire prevention inspections, workplace inspections and installation condition assessments to monitor compliance. Requirements for all government issued heaters include the following:

- Use only a metal, oil filled radiator type of electric space heater (not fuel-fired)
- Approved by a nationally recognized testing agency (e.g., UL, FM)
- Cool to the touch (maximum 175 degree F during operation), with guards over heat coils
- Located and operated per manufacturer's recommendations
- Placed on a level floor
- No exposed glowing elements
- Equipped with the tip over (shut off) feature
- Thermostatically controlled with automatic overheat shutoff sensor
- No automatic timer
- Routinely inspected (includes cords) for safe operation from the fire department
- Plugged directly into wall outlet without using of extension cords or surge protectors
- Heaters have a 36" clearance of all combustible material in all directions
- Heaters not left on when unattended
- Heaters turned off 15 minutes prior to leaving for the day and storing

To obtain a space heater, contact the facilities coordinator (e.g., building manager). The facilities coordinator contacts the local NAVFAC Public Works Department who determines if the location meets the requirements of temperature or reasonable medical accommodations for heaters. The facilities coordinator also contacts the local fire prevention branch of CNIC Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) to ensure that the heater and area is in compliance with above stated requirements. Command organizations may procure space heaters for issue that meet the above listed requirements. For any questions about the space heaters, contact the local CNIC F&ES fire inspector.