

Department of Human Services Information Bulletin

To: Agency Providers, Community Care Residence Providers, Distribution

Date: November 26, 2013

Subject: Portable Space Heaters

With the goal of keeping the Department of Human Services' partners and the people it serves informed about issues related to the health, welfare, and safety of the people we serve, we are issuing this information bulletin on the use of Portable Space Heaters. We thank you in advance for your efforts to improve the quality of services to the individuals we serve.

Sincerely,

Lauri Woodward, Director
Office of Program Integrity and Accountability

Background

N.J.A.C. 10:44B-6.2(i) states that portable area or space heaters shall be prohibited.

N.J.A.C. 10:44A-6.9(a) states that space heaters, including but not limited to, electrical, kerosene, and quartz heaters, shall be prohibited, unless a waiver is granted by the licensing agency.

This advisory is intended to provide information on the use and types of portable space heaters, currently on the market, that are prohibited.

In order to adequately assure the health, safety and welfare of all occupants and individuals of a home/program, the use or presence of portable area or space heaters is prohibited anywhere on the property of the licensed setting. They may not be stored in sheds, garages, basements, attics, crawlspaces or rooms used for storage, whether operable or inoperable.

Examples

A portable area or space heater is any type of catalytic or quartz heater, oil-filled heater, electric heater or any other heater that is designed to heat specific areas or rooms of a building **and that can be carried or moved from one area to another**, regardless of weight, size, or fuel source.

ALL TYPES OF PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS ARE PROHIBITED. Types of portable area or space heaters include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Amish
- Ceramic
- Commercial
- Decorative fire places that generate heat
- Electric
- Electric convection or fan
- Gel fuel (isopropyl alcohol)
- Infrared
- Kerosene
- "Multiple" functions, such as, Air purifier/humidifier/heater
- Oil fuel
- Propane
- Solar

Fire Safety Hazard

The use of portable area or space heaters poses a significant fire safety hazard.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that portable space heaters are associated with about 21,800 fires every year in the United States. Approximately 300 people die each year in fires started by these heaters. According to the National Fire Protection Association, supplemental heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires in the United States during the coldest months of the year.

The licensing standards N.J.A.C.10:44A, N.J.A.C.10:44B and N.J.A.C.10:44C are available at the Department of Human Services Office of Licensing Website at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ool/licensing/>