

## GUIDELINES FOR PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

### I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of portable space heaters in property owned by the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

### II. BACKGROUND

Portable electric space heaters are generally permitted but strongly discouraged at UMB. They are prohibited in certain locations. The National Fire Code (NFPA 1) grants the authority having jurisdiction, which is the UMB Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), the ability to prohibit the use of portable electric heaters in situations where there is a danger to life or property.

### III. PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

Portable space heaters may not be utilized in the following locations:

- Research laboratories.
- Patient care areas.
- Areas where hazardous materials are present.

Non-electric space heaters, including, but not limited to, kerosene, propane, and other fuel powered heaters, are strictly prohibited.

### IV. GENERAL GUIDANCE

Portable electric space heaters are permitted to be used in all areas aside from those listed above. Space heaters must be used in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Space heaters must be located at least 3 feet away from all combustible materials.
- Space heaters may not be left on when unattended.
- Space heaters must be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and must always be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Space heaters must have a tip-over switch, an automatic overheat shutoff sensor, an on/off indicator light, and no exposed heating elements.
- Space heaters must be plugged directly into wall outlets, not extension cords or power strips.
- Cords may not be run under carpet or rugs, or through walls, doors, or ceilings.