

Winter Safety: A Reminder About Space Heaters

As we approach the winter months, we would like to remind the members of the UMBC campus community that **space heater use is not permitted on campus**. This tip sheet seeks to remind our community of the hazards that unauthorized space heaters can pose.



Each year, space heaters are responsible for around 55,000 fires, 450 deaths, and over 1500 injuries nationwide.

Some of the most common causes of space heater fires:

- Space heaters use a lot of electricity, and plugging space heaters into a power strip, extension cord, or overloading the circuit can lead to a fire.
- Leaving the space heater unattended or forgetting to turn it off.
- Running the space heater near combustible items.



In addition to the safety hazards they can pose, space heater usage increases the overall amount of energy that UMBC uses, which adversely impacts UMBC's sustainability efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

UMBC thermostat setpoints are 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. If your space falls below that setpoint, notify Facilities Management. If there is an issue with the heating system, temporary space heaters will be issued.

If you have any questions regarding space heater usage at UMBC, notify Environmental Safety and Health at esh@umbc.edu or at 410-455-2918.