



WENHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

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PORTABLE SPACE HEATER POLICY

Adopted: December 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Effective: December 14, 2022

Portable space heaters of any type are prohibited within all developments of the Wenham Housing Authority (WHA), except for extraordinary circumstance(s). This Policy is made based upon the knowledge that portable space heaters are a considerable safety risk to both residents and property. Space heaters can also interfere with the proper function of the heating system of the building. If a space heater is used in a room where the thermostat is located then the additional heat will tell the thermostat not to call for heat, which in turn will make other areas of the unit colder and could lead to issues such as frozen pipes.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES:

If there is a failure of the heating system in a unit/building the authority **MAY** authorize the temporary use of portable space heaters. Written approval by the WHA is required for temporary use. When the use of a space heater is authorized, the following precautions must be followed:

- Do not use when sleeping or unattended;
- Unplug when not in use;
- Do not use power strips or extension cords. Space heater must be plugged directly into the wall outlet;
- Do not use in bathrooms or other damp areas;
- Do not use around unattended children; and
- All manufacture's warnings and instructions must be followed

VIOLATIONS:

If WHA staff or public safety officials identify a portable space heater in violation of this policy, the resident will be told to discontinue its use and the resident will be issued a written warning. A second violation of this policy will force the WHA to take administrative actions up to and including eviction.