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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The EPFD Warns About the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

EL PASO, Texas – With temperatures coming down as the winter approaches, many residents are beginning to use their space heaters to keep themselves warm. Fuel consuming space heaters are a source of carbon monoxide (CO). Improperly operating or improperly vented appliances can produce elevated — even fatal — CO concentrations in your home. Reduce the risk of CO poisoning by keeping in mind the following advice:

- Make sure the area where an unvented gas or kerosene space heater is used is well ventilated; doors leading to another room should be open to allow added ventilation.
- Never use an unvented combustion heater overnight or in a room where you are sleeping.
- Never use charcoal grills inside a home, tent, or camper.
- Don't leave vehicles running in an enclosed garage, even to "warm up" a car on a cold morning.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.
- [Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.](#)
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. Have a qualified HVAC technician tune-up your furnace or boiler before turning it on every winter season.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.

When carbon monoxide accumulation is suspected, or the CO alarm sounds, immediately move outside to fresh air and dial 9-1-1. Do not re-enter the premises until emergency responders clear you to do so.

To learn more, the public is encouraged to visit elpasofire.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community