Keywords: comfort heater, fire, heater, portable heater, safety switch, space heater

I. POLICY

It is the policy of Johns Hopkins to limit the use of portable comfort heaters and to eliminate the fire hazard associated with the use of certain types of heaters.

A. Portable comfort heaters are prohibited in all healthcare occupancies.
B. Portable comfort heaters are allowed in business occupancies with approval of departmental administration and Facilities Management. An approved work request can be used for this.
C. The two types of heaters allowed are:
   1. Oil-filled radiator type, which must be equipped with a safety switch to shut off power if the device tips over. The heater must not exceed 212 degrees F (100 degrees C).
   2. A radiant, flat panel heater rated at 250 watts or lower.
D. Portable comfort heaters shall not be placed in close proximity to combustible materials.
E. All portable comfort heaters should have built in thermostat and either occupancy sensor controls or auto timed off switch. Comfort heaters may be plugged into a power strip with an occupancy sensor that de-energizes the heater when the occupant is not present.
F. All portable comfort heaters must bear the seal of approval of a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). The two most common ones are Underwriter’s Laboratory (U.L.) and Factory Mutual (F. M.). A list of all NRTLs can be found here: [http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html)
G. Units found in violation of this policy will be removed.

II. REFERENCES

NFPA 101 Life Safety Code Section 19.7.8

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Health, Safety and Environment
B. Departmental Administrators
   1. Enforce this policy.

IV. REVIEW CYCLE

3 years