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STAY WARM AND SAFE WHILE USING YOUR HEATER THIS WINTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 2, 2008) — As heating costs rise and temperatures dip, energy costs are on everybody's mind. Portable electric heaters can be an efficient way to warm your room or supplement central heating; however, if not used properly, they can be a fire or electric shock hazard. According to a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) study, there are about 3000 portable heater fires annually. Of those fires, most were caused by improper use.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and the following safety groups, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), urge consumers to follow these simple and important safety tips when using portable electric heaters:

1. Read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels before using your portable electric heater.
2. DO NOT leave an operating heater unattended and always unplug heater when not in use.
3. DO NOT use your heater with a power strip or extension cord. Overheating of a power strip or extension cord could result in a fire.
4. String out cords on top of area rugs or carpeting. Placing anything, including furniture, on top of the cord may damage it.
5. Keep combustible materials, such as furniture, pillows, bedding, papers, clothes and curtains at least three feet from the front of the heater and away from the sides and rear. DO NOT block heater's air intake or outlet.
6. Keep flammable materials, such as paint, gas cans and matches, away from the heater.
7. Unless the heater is designed for outdoor use or in bathrooms, DO NOT use in damp or wet areas. Parts in the heater may be damaged by moisture.

8. Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug does not fit snugly into the outlet or if the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced. Check with a qualified electrician to replace the outlet.
9. Unplug the heater when not in use by pulling the plug straight out from the outlet. Inspect the heater's cord periodically. DO NOT use a heater with a damaged cord.
10. DO NOT plug any other electrical device into the same outlet as your heater. This could result in overheating.
11. Heaters should be kept away from children and not be placed in a child's room without supervision.
12. Place heater on a level, flat surface. Only use heater on table tops when specified by the manufacturer. DO NOT place your heater on furniture. It could fall, dislodging or breaking parts in the heater.

Throughout the heating season, AHAM will work with fire safety groups to educate consumers on the proper way to use portable electric heaters. AHAM is distributing Safety Educator Tool Kits to fire departments across the country to complement safety education programs for students. The Safety Educator Tool Kit and AHAM's free safety brochures, offered in English and Spanish, and available at www.heatersafety.org or by calling (888) 785-SAFE. Please be smart, be safe and enjoy your portable electric heater!

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The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is a not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry and is headquartered in Washington, DC. You can visit AHAM's web site at <http://www.aham.org>.

This safety campaign is sponsored by the following brands: Bionaire, DeLonghi, Holmes, Honeywell, Lasko, Patton and Sunbeam. For more information, visit <http://www.heatersafety.org>.