Faulty Vornado Space Heater Recall and Space Heater Safety

January 20, 2016

Courtesy Los Alamos National Laboratory

Space heater fire at LANL – on Thursday, January 7, 2016 a Vornado space heater failed and completely melted.
Vornado has many models of heaters and cooling fans. ONLY one has been recently recalled due to a faulty thermostat that can stick and cause a meltdown. The others are known to be safe.

ACTION for ALL

(a) find your space heater, check if Vornado
(b) Look at the label on the bottom
(c) Look for TYPE VH110, Serial NO. contains "13" after a month, any month (see label below)
(d) Take these heaters OUT OF SERVICE.

Recalled Vornado space heater
TYPE 110
Manufactured in 2013

Guidance for Using Portable Space Heaters

- Assure that the space heater is listed by UL, TUV, ETL, or CSA (see label on bottom or side).
- Always plug heater directly into facility receptacle, never into extension cords or relocatable power taps. Make sure the plug is not loose in the outlet.
- Read and follow all manufacturer's warnings on cord label and/or in manual.
- If heater power cord or wall receptacle feels hot to the touch, discontinue use.
- Unplug heater when not in use.
- Avoid leaving heater running when unattended, in offices.
- Place heater out of traffic and on a level, flat surface (carpet is ok).
- Avoid placing heaters on furniture or countertops.
- Keep front of heater 3 feet away from combustibles.
- Do not operate damaged heater, if dropped, or with a damaged cord.
- Do not run heater cord under carpet. Place cord out of foot traffic.
- Do not use two heaters on the same circuit (e.g., in the same office area).
- If a breaker trips in your area, contact your facility contact person.
- NOTE: there is no need to test tiltover action. If it is listed and not recalled, it is ok. The fan may stay on, when turned face down, that is proper on certain settings.

For assistance contact any Electrical Safety expert at your institution.