If using a space heater, plug directly into a wall outlet and keep at least three feet away from combustables.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 50% of all portable generator-related carbon monoxide deaths occur during the winter months (November - February). Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, account for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) of home heating fire deaths according to the National Fire Protection Association. In addition to these inherent winter hazards, winter storms can also lead to serious hazards such as downed power lines and flooding.

**ESFI OFFERS THESE SAFETY TIPS TO HELP YOU:**

**PREPARE**
- Unplug your appliances and power cords from outlets to protect them from power surges.
- If you plan to use a portable generator, ESFI recommends a licensed electrician install it to ensure it will operate safely.
- Test your home’s carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms to ensure they’re functioning.

**WEATHER**
- Use flashlights as a source of light. Candles are a fire hazard.
- Never operate a generator inside your home or in other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including the garage.
- Use a battery-operated radio to stay informed about important safety updates.
- If using a space heater, plug directly into a wall outlet and keep at least three feet away from combustables.

**RECOVER**
- If flood waters reached the level of electrical outlets, contact a licensed electrician before attempting to use electricity in the home.
- Prior to use, have a qualified service repair dealer determine what electrical equipment should be replaced and what can be reconditioned.
- Never touch a fallen power line or drive through standing water if a downed power line is nearby. Report downed lines to local authorities.

Additional severe weather safety information is available at www.esfi.org.
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