

# PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER FIRE SAFETY

Hot summer days and nights bring on the use of portable air conditioners. While these appliances sure can make life more pleasant, it pays to be aware of potential fire hazards.



In a 2016 report, the National Fire Protection Association said air conditioners cause an average of 20 deaths, 140 injuries, and \$82 million in property damage annually.

Air conditioner fires tend to be from over-heated units. They most frequently happen between 2 PM and 8 PM, the hottest part of the day, when the unit is working really hard.



Regularly inspect and maintain your unit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Also make sure the filter is clean. Trying to push air through a dirty filter makes the unit work harder.



Make sure you have the right sized unit for the space you're trying to cool. Under-powered units work extra hard and are more likely to overheat or suffer a mechanical failure that could cause a fire.

Don't use extension cords or power strips for large electrical appliances, including air conditioners. Plug them in directly to the closest outlet. Don't run any electrical cord under a rug or through a wall. This could cause the electrical cord to overheat and start a fire.