Heating pads and electric blankets cause around 500 fires each year. Almost all of these fires involve electric blankets that are more than ten years old. Learn how to stay safe.

Heating appliances should **never be left unattended** or used while sleeping.

Do not plug electric blankets into an **extension cord** or power strip, as they could overheat and **cause a fire**.

**Look** for dark, charred, or frayed spots or electrical cords that are cracked or frayed. **Replace** any worn or old heating pads or electric blankets.

**Never fold electric blankets** when in use. Folded or tucked-in blankets could overheat and **cause a fire**.

When purchasing electronics, including electric blankets, be sure to only **purchase from reputable retailers**. Purchase devices that have been approved by a **Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory**.

Do not allow anything to **rest on top** of a heating pad or electric blanket when it is in use. It may cause the device to **overheat**.

There are **two types** of personal heating appliances, heating pads that are placed directly on the mattress and electric blankets. They are not meant to be used interchangeably or at the same time.

Please share this free resource to save lives

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