

Speaker 1: The following segment is sponsored by Gilman and Bedigian.

Patrice: 07:45am and as the days get colder the use of space heaters in homes and on outside patios is increasing. While they may keep us warm and toasty the increase in injury or damage to your home and property is also something you need to keep in mind.

Attorney Charles Gilman, from Gilman and Bedigian, joins us now on what you should do to stay safe and what to do if something does go wrong. Good morning.

Charles Gilman: Good morning, Patrice. How are you?

Patrice: I am doing well. Alright, so i have just bought some of these space heaters for the outdoor patio myself - you see them at all the outdoor dining. What do we need to know about these?

Gilman: Well, at home, I think what you need to know is to keep them at least three feet away from the surface of your house or if you put them on a porch or a patio keep them away from the railings because all of those things are flammable.

The other thing that you should do, especially at your house, is to make sure if something does catch on fire outside, you know how to get away from it - either run inside, run down the steps, run away from it. But don't run into it.

I think that it's an important point in restaurants too, because if you are going to be outdoor dining, they have those massive space heaters out there and they are full of propane. When you sit down, you want to make sure that you plan a way to get away if someone's clothing catches on fire or something else catches on fire.

Patrice: Okay, true, and you know what? For a lot of the outdoor restaurants and maybe your homes, they have these tents set up for you to sit under. Can you have those heaters under those tents?

Gilman: I think it depends on which heater you buy, but any heater you buy is going to come with instructions from the manufacturer. You have to make sure you follow those instructions, because some of them could catch those tents on fire and other issues - maybe not enough ventilation, and then you have the fact of the gas, the propane or whatever, that's getting people sick.

Patrice: And let's talk about indoor heaters. The first thing is that you shouldn't bring an outdoor heater inside. That's not going to work. When you are looking for indoor heaters for your home, what do you need to keep in mind?

Gilman: Keep in mind that you need to buy the one that's the right size for your room (or rooms) you intend to heat, and the other thing you might want to keep in mind is, don't turn the heater the whole way up, have a party, open the windows, and not expect a bad outcome.

You have to be careful of those as well. Keep them away from walls and if you going to use them inside, one of the number one recommendations is carbon monoxide detectors that you make sure work monthly, as well as smoke alarms in your house. Make sure the batteries are charged and you have tested those as well.

Patrice: Alright. All just good reminders as everyone is transitioning to using those. Thank you so much for joining us.

Gilman: Thank you for having me. Have a great day.

Patrice: You too.