

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS OF CALIFORNIA

PROPERTY & LIABILITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 1, 2012

SPACE HEATERS AND FANS

A recent question was raised regarding staff members using space heaters and fans in classrooms and office spaces. The heating, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) systems that service school buildings are designed and engineered to meet the thermal requirements of the region in which the structure is located. The units are not only designed to maintain the thermal comfort of the space; the units also have a mechanism to introduce outside air into the occupied space.

In recent years due to energy costs and supply, thermostat settings have been closely scrutinized. PG&E recommends thermostats be set at 78 degrees or higher in the summer and 68 degrees or lower in the winter. While this measure conserves energy, the thermal comfort of some occupants may not be met.

Because of individual thermal preferences, district employees may elect to place household fans and/or space heaters in their work area. The use of some of these appliances may be appropriate (i.e., small desk fans) provided they have been approved and display the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label or equivalent certification. However, due to the potential for personal injury and property damage, SISC does not recommend the use of space heaters or other electric or gas heating devices. The main concern is for the safety of the occupants. Space heaters have the

potential to cause burns; electrocution and fire can also result from improper use.

Additionally, the room's electrical wiring may not be adequate to service these devices.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact your SISC II Safety representative at (661) 636-4604.



PROPERTY & LIABILITY

ROBERT KRETZMER
DIRECTOR
661.636.4709
rokretzmer@kern.org

ELSA LARA
CLAIMS EXAMINER II
661.636.4736
ellara@kern.org

RYAN BOURGET
ADJUSTER I
661.636.4606
rybourget@kern.org

COORDINATOR
661.636.4863
dulow@kern.org

ROXANN DAILEY-WEBB
ADJUSTER I
661.636.4848
rodailey@kern.org

ADMIN. SECRETARY
661.636.4495
limorentin@kern.org

SANDI HARVILLE
SECRETARY II
661.636.4604
saharville@kern.org

SABRINA MOTEN
CLAIMS ASSISTANT
661.636.4414
samoten@kern.org

CAROL RAY
CLAIMS EXAMINER II
661.636.4871
caray@kern.org

HILDA TABORA
CLAIMS EXAMINER I
661.636.4206
hitabora@kern.org

TIM RIDLEY
SAFETY SPECIALIST
661.636.4376
tiridley@kern.org

TY TAYLOR
ADJUSTER II
661.636.4601
tytaylor@kern.org

RANDYE ROGERS
SAFETY SPECIALIST
661.636.4607
rarogers@kern.org

PAT TUMBARELLO
ADJUSTER II
805.929.5950
patumbarello@kern.org

JOE SINGLETARY
SAFETY SPECIALIST
661.636.4605
josingleтары@kern.org

VALARIE WAGNER
LEAD CLAIMS EXAMINER
661.636.4694
vawagner@kern.org



2000 K Street
Bakersfield CA 93301
PO Box 1847
Bakersfield CA 93303-1847
Phone: 661-636-4604
Fax: 661-636-4418

[HTTP://SISC.KERN.ORG/PL](http://sisc.kern.org/pl)

SCHOOLS HELPING SCHOOLS