



**“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”**  
**Phone: 920-208-7520**

*We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!*

## *Weekly Safety Tip*

*Life Is All About Choices!®*

January 12, 2015

### **SCI Safety Tip: Careful With Those Space Heaters!**

*Source: <http://www.blr.com>*

*Date: January 7, 2015*

January is living up to its reputation with below-average temperatures and snow piling up in many parts of the country. If you rely on space heaters to keep people comfortable in your workplace, you might want to reconsider. Read more to learn about the risks of these common but potentially hazardous devices.

Space heaters are a quick way to heat things up in a drafty office or workspace, but they can increase the risks of fire and electric shock if not used properly. OSHA does not specifically prohibit use of portable electric heaters, but the safety agency does require that any electrical equipment be used according to the manufacturer's specifications. And if extension cords are used, they must be rated to handle the electrical load.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that heaters resulted in 490 deaths, 1,180 injuries, and \$330 million in direct property damage in a recent year. Space heaters without adequate safety features can cause fires. Other hazards are present when space heaters are placed near combustibles or are improperly plugged in.



### ***SCI Safety Slogan***

***Don't Space –out!  
Portable Heaters  
Cause Fires!***

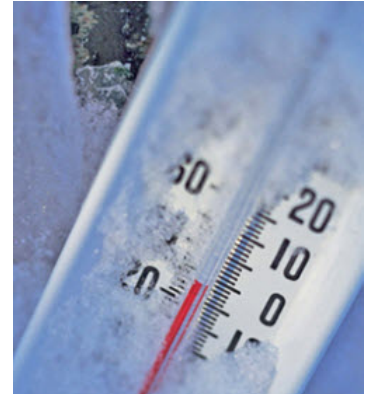
***James Lehrke-SCI***

The Electrical Safety Foundation International says employers get into trouble when they fail to develop policies specifically banning the devices on company property. The foundation encourages employers to educate their employees about space-heater practices.

#### Tips for space heater safety

If you must use space heaters, make sure you do it safely.

- Require employees to get approval from a supervisor or manager before using a space heater at work.
- Make sure all space heaters have the certification of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including people, paper, clothing, and rugs.
- Keep space heaters away from high-traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a trip hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat and cause a fire.
- Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Operating space heaters should never be left unattended. They should be turned off and unplugged at the end of the workday or when the employee leaves the room.



If you decide to ban space heaters, make sure your heating system is working optimally. Encourage employees in chilly parts of the building to dress in layers. And suggest that office employees get up and move a little more often—for example, by delivering a message in person rather than emailing a co-worker.

What does OSHA say about portable space heaters, read here:

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=10675](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10675)

## SCI OSHA Compliance: The Rulemaking Process

Source: <http://www.osha.gov>

Before OSHA can issue a standard, it must go through an extensive and lengthy process that includes substantial public engagement, notice and comment periods. This is known as OSHA's "rulemaking process."

**Click on the image** to browse the rulemaking process through an easy-to follow [flowchart](#)\*. Each stage contains an approximate timeline of the process, and details of the requirements OSHA has to follow before each stage can be completed. The icons on the flowchart help guide the viewer through the type of requirement - legal, internal or executive order - that dictates OSHA's actions in each stage of the process.

OSHA can begin standards-setting procedures on its own initiative or in response to petitions from other parties, including:

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS);
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH);
- State and local governments;
- Nationally recognized standards-producing organizations and employer or labor representatives; and





### Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA

Health & Wellness

#### Goal = Good Health

**Set short or small goals:** It is easier to accomplish many small goals than one large goal. These small goals will add up to big changes over time. If you do have a large long term goal, make sure to add short term goals to achieve along the way to keep you on track.

**Buddy system:** By setting goals with a friend or family member, you will have a partner to help keep you motivated and accountable. This partner should be someone mutually invested in that goal and be a source of positive reinforcement.

**Reward yourself:** When you achieve a goal or complete a step toward your goal, take some time to celebrate your accomplishment. Eat that snack you haven't allowed yourself to have or buy yourself that new shirt you wanted. Just make sure you don't get too carried away! Otherwise, it is no longer a reward.

See more at: <http://www.prevea.com/Your-Wellness/Resources/Tips-to-Maintaining-Goals/#sthash.UxxVjTd0.dpuf>

- Any other interested parties

Each spring and fall, the Department of Labor publishes in the Federal Register a list of all standards and regulations that have work underway.

This [regulatory agenda](#) provides a schedule for the development of standards and regulations so that employers, employees, and other interested parties can follow their progress and participate in the rulemaking process during comment periods, public hearings, and other meetings.

#### What is...

- **The Federal Register** The official daily publication for Federal notices, rules and proposed rules, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents.

Visit the Federal Register web site, or browse OSHA

Federal Register publications by:

- [Publication Date](#)
- [Federal Register Number](#)
- [Standard Number](#)
- [Preambles to Final Rules](#)

- **The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)**

- The codification of final rules published by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Each volume is updated once each calendar year.
- [View all OSHA standards](#) in Title 29 of the CFR, the Department of Labor's section of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Subparagraphs numbers that are highlighted in blue and underlined in the text of the standard, (e.g., [1910.27\(b\)\(1\)](#)) provide link to related information on the site, e.g., Interpretations, Federal Register, Directives.

PDF and XML versions of the latest version of the standards published in 29 CFR 1910 - 1910.999 and 1910.1000 to End are available online from [GPO](#).



What do you think?

Send us an email at: [jlconnections@aol.com](mailto:jlconnections@aol.com)

See our bold new look

@ <http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

In Loving Memory of Jessica Lehrke

**SAVE TOMORROW  
THINK SAFETY TODAY**