



# SISC BULLETIN

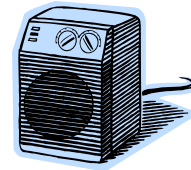
SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

October 28, 2005

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Timothy L. Beard  
Property and Risk Management Specialist

SUBJECT: Use of Space Heaters and Fans

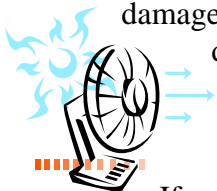


A recent question was raised regarding staff members using space heaters and fans in classrooms and office spaces.

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, please contact the SISC Risk Management Services office at (661)636-4604.

TLB:sh

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