



The holiday season is a time full of parties and festivities, but that also means more drunk drivers are on the roadways. With the excitement of holiday celebrations, partygoers might find themselves “buzzed” after having just a drink or two—and without a sober ride home. Law enforcement actively looks for drunk drivers around the holidays. Just one drink can impair your judgment and increase your risk of getting arrested for driving drunk—or worse, causing a crash if you’re behind the wheel. Many factors determine the effect alcohol has on your body, and it can vary depending on factors such as your weight and when you last ate. This holiday, remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. If you plan to go out and enjoy the evening with alcohol, make sure you refrain from driving. Review these facts and share the word about the dangers of drunk driving



## Don't Drink and Drive.

- This holiday season, [Local Community] is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* drunk-driving awareness campaign to help keep impaired drivers off the road. The campaign runs from November 24-December 12, 2017.
- According to NHTSA, 37,461 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2016, and 28 percent (10,497) of those fatalities occurred in a crash during which a driver had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over the legal limit of .08.
- According to NHTSA, 781 people lost their lives in traffic crashes involving a drunk driver during the month of December 2016.
- From 2012 to 2016, there were 3,995 people killed in December crashes that involved drivers with BACs over the legal limit of .08.

## Drinking and Driving Will Cost You—Possibly Your Life.

- On average, a DUI can set you back \$10,000 in attorney fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more.
- The financial impact from impaired driving crashes is devastating. Based on 2010 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States \$44 billion annually.



## Use of Personal Space Heaters at Work

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, employees who are cold at work may be breaking out their personal space heaters to keep warm. Should Departments allow the use of space heaters in the colder areas of the workplace? Consider that improper use of electric space heaters can be dangerous. Although statistics about damage caused by space heaters in the workplace are not readily available, public information is available on the effects of poorly utilized space heaters in the home. Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five (40%) of home heating fires and four out of five (84%) of home heating fire deaths <sup>(1)</sup>.

### OSHA Rules?

There are no federal workplace safety rules that prohibit portable electric space heaters in the workplace. OSHA rules do require that electrical equipment must be used according to manufacturer specifications on the unit's label and in the user manual. There's no question that space heaters can pose a major workplace fire safety hazard. Fires can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in <sup>(2)</sup>.

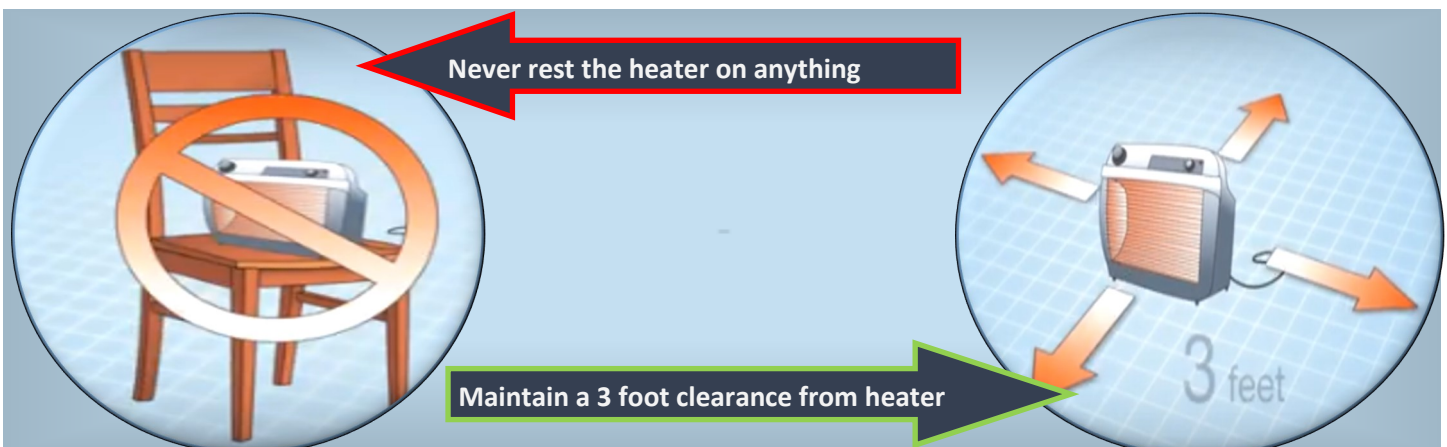
### Say No to Personal Space Heaters?

It would be easy to "just say no" to use of personal space heaters in County facilities. Many County Departments discourage the use of space heaters or ban them outright citing governing agency regulations. However, the reality remains that no matter how much an HVAC system is adjusted, or no matter how much weather stripping is added, some areas of the workplace can be just plain COLD. On top of that, some workers may have medical conditions that require extra warmth even in "normal" (68–76 degrees F) work temperatures.

If Departments allow personal space heater use in County facilities, the following requirements must be met.

1. Use of space heaters should not be allowed unless Department approval is provided prior to use. County Facility Maintenance or Safety should inspect/approve that use of a space heater will not cause problems and that the need cannot be met by adjusting the building HVAC system. This applies to both employee owned and Department provided space heaters.
2. Permitted space heaters for use must be listed or labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories), CSA (Canadian Standards Association) or ETL (Intertek) <sup>(3)</sup>. They must also be equipped with an auto shut-off switch that turns unit off if tipped over (Authority: 2007 California Fire Code 605.10 and Board of Supervisors Policy H-4) <sup>(4)</sup>.

In addition, space heaters should have a timer or thermostat and the capacity should be only to warm only the desired area(s). Product features will be listed in the product specifications sheets.



## Safe Use Practices of Space Heaters

Employees who are permitted to use electric space heaters must follow manufacturer's instructions and:

- Inspect space heaters to ensure good condition that the unit shuts off when tipped over and electrical cords and plugs are not frayed or damaged.
- Properly place space heaters by keeping in plain sight and out of high-traffic area or in any area where it may become a tripping hazard.

Never place anything on top of or touching the space heater. Maintain 36 inches of clearance around the unit and only use them in areas free of flammable liquids and easily ignited or combustible materials (Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.)

Always plug the heater directly into the wall or cubicle wall outlet, and be sure the power cord is not crossing a walkway unless it is properly enclosed in an anti-trip cord strip.

-Never use extension cords or power strips, as these could overheat and lead to a fire.

-Never leave a space heater on and unattended. Turn the heater off when leaving the room or area of the heater. Unplug the cord before leaving work for the day.

## Say No to Personal Space Heaters?

For additional guidance regarding use of personal space heaters at work, contact Department Administration, County Facility Maintenance Customer Service 951-955-4850 or the County HR Safety Division at 951-955-3520.

See the link below for sample electrical space heaters available through Staples:

<https://www.staplesadvantage.com/shop/StplCategoryDisplay?catalogId=4&langId=-1&storeId=10101>

Source references:

<http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Top-causes-of-fire/Heating>

<https://www6.slac.stanford.edu/>

[www.travelers.com/resources/workplace-safety/space-heater-safety-in-the-workplace.aspx](http://www.travelers.com/resources/workplace-safety/space-heater-safety-in-the-workplace.aspx)

<http://www.rivcocob.org/boardpolicies/policy-h/POLICY-H04.pdf>

### Fan-forced space heater

(safest type of heater)



### Ceramic space heater



EXAMPLES

## Calling all DSR's!

## What's A DSR?

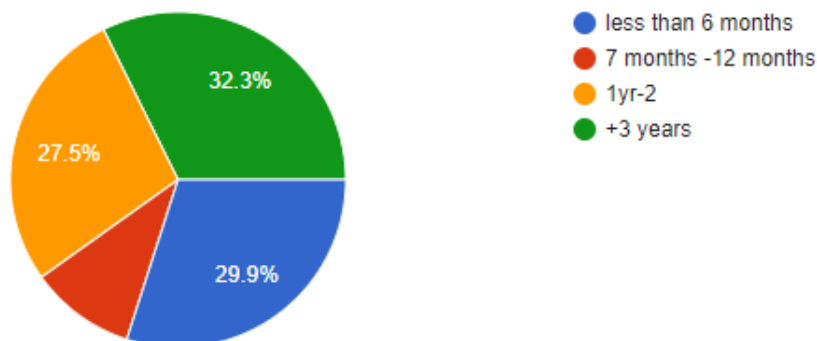
A DSR is a Department Safety Representative (DSR). They are your onsite Safety Representative responsible for complete your monthly facility inspections and communicate issues to the Safety Division Coordinator assigned to your department.

Below is information gathered from last months survey..

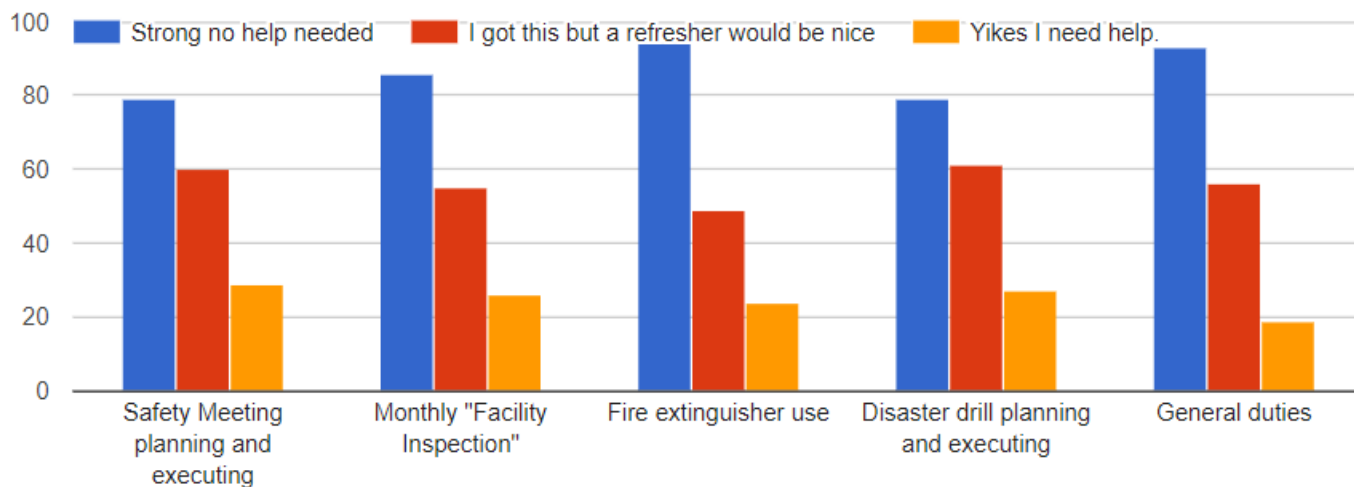
If you didn't complete the survey please click on the link at the bottom DRS's ONLY

### How long have you been the DSR?

167 responses



### How comfortable are you in the following areas;



## Have you (DSR'S) completed your survey?



Hi  
I'm the link!



If further assistance is needed  
Contact the Safety Division

951-955-3520

To be completed by current DSR's only