



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

SA-01-92

Date: January 27, 1992

TO: Distribution
FROM: 429/Head, Risk Management Branch, SSQRD
SUBJECT: Portable Electric Heater Policy

The use of portable electric heaters represents an inefficient utilization of expensive electrical power. Their use in federal buildings has generally been prohibited. Sometime ago it was requested that such heaters be removed. Now, with another winter season, it is essential that we continue to survey our facilities to insure that such heaters are not being used.

These portable units are not only inefficient energy consumers, but can also represent a significant safety hazard. On December 31, 1991, the use of such a heater caused a fire in one of our facilities. Fortunately, the fire was immediately detected and no one suffered injury. Property damage was minimal, but the potential of "what might have happened" serves as a warning to us.

As prescribed in LHB 1740.2, "Facility Safety Requirements," portable electrical heaters will be permitted at LaRC for emergency use during major heating failures, facility rehabilitations, or for health reasons with the written approval of the LaRC Safety Manager.

We solicit your cooperation in removing unauthorized portable heaters. The potential safety hazard and obvious energy considerations call for a best effort on the part of each employee in this matter. All unapproved portable heaters should be forwarded to the Laboratory and Plant Electrical Section, Electrical Support Branch, OSD, Building 1221C, M/S 171.

V. William Wessel
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47233

Distribution:
Facility Safety Heads
Facility Coordinators
Contractor Safety Reps.
Supervisory Personnel

429/WCH *WCH*