



M E M O R A N D U M

Kathy Gallagher, Director

40 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 • (925) 608-5000 • Fax (925) 313-1575 • www.ehsd.org

To: Code 2A, All Staff

Date: January 12th, 2022

From: Tom Ta, Facilities Manager

Subject: Personal Appliances in the Workplace

The Bronx fire in New York City that occurred on January 9th, 2022 is a reminder that we should be mindful of what we plug into the outlets at our workplace. The cause of the Bronx fire was determined to be a defective space heater that burst into flames killing 17 people.

Every outlet in the workplace has a limit to how much electricity can be drawn before it trips, essentially shutting off the flow of electricity. When a circuit breaker trips, it prevents high amounts of electricity from overheating wires. However, wires can get hot enough to start an electrical fire, oftentimes behind the wall, before the breaker trips.

Please make safety a priority in your workplace by not using the items listed below in your workstation area. Do not keep any of the items at your desk, please bring them home.

- Space Heaters
- Coffee Makers
- Personal Refrigerators
- Microwaves
- Toaster & Toaster Ovens
- Other Household Appliances