



NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
“QUICK LOOK REPORT”
2 February 2020, Building 1284, NSF Dahlgren

1. SITUATION:

1.1. On February 2, 2020 at 1350 hours, Rescue Engine 281 and Paramedic Ambulance 289 responded to the main gate for an electrocution. Crews found a 50-year-old male police officer with burns to his fingers, chest pain, and numbness in both feet. They were advised he was unplugging the space heater when he received the shock.



2. INVESTIGATION:

2.1 The heater in question is a Fostoria Sun-Mite Infrared Heater Model: FSP9524-3 240 volt. The heater and plug, which caused the shock and appeared to have charring on both hot terminals of the plug and charring on the receptacle.

2.2 The heaters being used were not approved by the Fire Prevention Office and would not have met our requirements set forth in the 11320.10F Fire Bill.

2.3 The heaters do not have a cutoff switch or tip over protection.

3. CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

3.1 The heaters came from the vendor without a power wire and is required to be installed by a certified electrician. A dedicated 220-volt receptacle was installed at 2 locations.

3.2 The power cord had a 220 plug installed and was being used as the means to turn off and on the heater (this is not recommended for 220-volt appliances). A shut off switch or disconnect should have been installed in the building wiring to safely operate the heaters.





NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
“QUICK LOOK REPORT”
2 February 2020, Building 1284, NSF Dahlgren

4. SUMMARY:

- Estimated DoD fire loss: unknown
- Origin: Power outlet and cord
- Cause: Improper shutoff of 120V appliance
- Injury: One occupant with burns to fingers, chest pain and numbness to both feet.

5. RECOMENDATION(S):

5.1 Install a hard wired heating solution which is permanently mounted with a hard-wired on-off switch as well as a power disconnect. If portable heaters are desired, they must conform to the portable heating requirements of the 11320.10F.

