

## RADIATOR SAFETY

*Background: Several recent minor resident injuries have occurred due to contact with hot radiators. Some simple steps will prevent these injuries, and keep a severe one from occurring.*



Hundreds of housing units in NJPHA-JF member properties are heated with steam or hot water radiators. This was most prevalent in buildings constructed in the fifties and sixties. Injuries are most frequently associated with steam radiators.

Radiators can become very hot, posing a hazard to anyone who might accidentally touch them, especially young children. The simplest solution is the installation of a radiator cover. The cover should go around the entire radiator without having any contact with it. The design, if it has any holes or spaces, should not allow a child to put a hand or a finger through to touch the radiator.

Keeping furniture clear of the radiator can also prevent a possible fire.

The pipes that bring steam to the radiator, including the elbow joint should also be insulated. These can also get very hot when the unit is working, and if a child or animal touches the radiator it can cause injury. The best covering will contain fiberglass, which is able to tolerate heat well.

Include a check for proper protection on the annual inspection checklist.

For further assistance on this matter or other safety and risk control issues, contact your risk management consultant or Jim Rhoads, NJPHA-JIF safety consultant (610-937-2694), [james\\_rhoads@pmagroup.com](mailto:james_rhoads@pmagroup.com).

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