

Space Heater Safety Tips

As the cold sets in, a space heater can make any room feel extra cozy—just be sure to use it safely:

1 Keep it clear

Give your heater at least 3 feet of space from anything that can burn.

2 Plug into the wall

Skip extension cords and power strips to avoid overheating.

3 Choose safety features

Look for tip-over and overheat shut-offs.

4 Never leave it unattended

Turn it off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

5 Check it first

Inspect cords and housing for damage before each use.

6 Avoid burns

Look for a unit with cool-touch exteriors, especially if you have kids or pets.

Stay Warm and Safe This Winter!



- A typical 1,500-watt space heater costs approximately \$0.20 to \$0.26 per hour to run.
- Running a 1,500W heater for 8 hours a day could cost around \$1.60 to over \$2.00 per day or roughly \$50 to \$80 per month.
- For whole-home heating, a well-maintained central heating system is typically more cost-effective than trying to heat the entire house with multiple electric space heaters.
- Space heaters become cost-effective when you use them for heating only the small area you are currently occupying (like a home office or bedroom) while keeping the central thermostat turned down for the rest of the house.

Project Share

To enroll in the Project Share program, please scan this code to fill out the form on our website.



If you need assistance with Project Share enrollment, cancellation or additional information, please contact customer service at 515-961-9444 or visit the Customer Service Center at 210 West 2nd Ave.

Together, We Can Keep Our Community Warm.

This is a voluntary program, created to assist needy households in paying their winter energy bills. You can help by adding a regular Project Share (PS) contribution to your monthly utility payment, or by making a direct donation to Project Share. These funds will then be distributed to neighbors in need for winter energy costs. Those qualifying for help will be carefully identified by an area social service agency. A local committee will oversee Project Share to guarantee all contributions will be handled equitably and efficiently.

Finance and HR director **Chris Longer** is retiring after 33 years with IMU

What first led you to a career in public utilities, and specifically at Indianola Municipal Utilities, 33 years ago?

I was first hired by the City of Indianola in 1992, after graduating from Simpson College and years of part time employment with Hy-Vee. The position with the city provided an opportunity to expand upon the customer focused philosophy I learned and valued at Hy-Vee and to also continue serving the Indianola community. Ten years later, I was fortunate to be hired by IMU where I have grown into my current position.

What is the biggest change you've seen in the scope of IMU's services or in your department?

There have been many positive changes at IMU throughout my career. Probably the most notable would be the addition of the fiber utility. Well before my time at IMU, there was a vision that Indianola would someday own and operate its own telecommunications utility, and in 2016 the Board of Trustees approved a feasibility study which led to the decision to build IMU's current fiber system. Each department, however, has had its own success stories over the years and each continues to improve facilities and operations as the community needs grow all while being ever mindful of the financial impact those decisions make on our customers.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is and has always been serving the Indianola community. I have been fortunate to serve in many capacities at IMU and am grateful for the mentorships, collaborations, and contacts I have made over the years.

Chris Longer



What will you miss most about your daily routine or the people you worked with?

It sounds cliché, but truly the employees at IMU are what I will miss most. Many I have worked along side with for many years and others for a short time, but I believe we all share the same customer-oriented philosophy and pride that comes from public service.

What are your plans for retirement? Do you have any specific hobbies, travel plans, or projects you're looking forward to?

Immediate plans include a family vacation in sunny Florida! Additionally, spending more time with family and traveling to areas I've always wanted to visit. I'm also a big fan of spending time outdoors, so I'll be looking forward to spring in Iowa and all the outdoor activities and yard work that emerge!



CONTACT IMU

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IMU RESOURCES

Online bill pay: my.imufiber.com/ebill/login
Report outage: indianola.com/outages
IMU board meetings: youtube.com/@indianolamunicipalutilities
Work for IMU: indianola.com/careers