SFDPH Business Ethics and Best Practices  
Notice February 8, 2016

**Using the DPH Internet for Non-Business Purposes**

The exploding growth of internet access and social media has dramatically changed the way people communicate at work. Many studies suggest that email and the internet have become the most important communications and information tools among workers in the workplace. There is no denying that the Internet has helped businesses grow and changed the way we communicate, but the increased use of technology in the workplace has also created some new concerns.

In a survey of 1,439 workers by Vault.com, an online analyst firm, 37% admitted to surfing constantly at work, 32% surfed a few times a day, and 21% surfed a few times a week (Adschiew, 2000).

In another survey conducted by Websense, Inc., revealed that employees inappropriately used work computer and internet to access pornography (42%), online chatting (13%), gaming (12%), sports (8%), investing (7%), and shopping at work (7%), which were the leading causes for disciplinary action or termination.

As you know, the Department of Public Health provides Internet access to employees for use in performing required duties. **SFDPH is able to audit all internet traffic, including what sites employees visit.**

Thank you for not perusing Internet sites that may be in direct violation of SFDPH Staff Internet Usage Policy. To review this Policy, please click [here](#).