

SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM FIRE SAFETY

Follow these fire safety tips to keep your school and classrooms free from common fire code violations.

01

FIRE EXITS

- **Exit doors:** Exit doors shall be easily distinguishable and recognizable as an exit. Doors shall not be concealed by curtains, drapes, decorations or similar materials. IFC 1010.1
 - Keep exit doors and routes accessible and exit doors unlocked on the inside.
 - Ensure that fire exits are well marked, and doors are unlocked (from the inside, e.g., a crash bar).
- **Hallways:** Keep hallways unobstructed. Tip: look at the width of your fire exit doors and make sure there is an unobstructed exit route at least the same width. Don't clutter hallways with extra desks and furniture.

02

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- **Power Strips:** Power strips can only be plugged into permanent electrical outlets, not into extension cords or other power strips. IFC 605.4.2.2.
- **Extension Cords:** Remove extension cords unless they are used only for temporary, portable, or seasonal equipment and they shall not be run through walls, under doors, through ceilings, or be subject to damage. Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- **Electrical Panels:** Keep access to electrical panels clear.
- **Portable Heaters:** Portable heaters shall only be plugged into permanent, approved outlets. IFC 605.10.2

03

FLAMMABLES

- **Flammable Materials:** Do not attach flammable materials to exit doorways or suspend it from the ceiling. Decorations of a flammable character shall not be used.
- **Arts:** Keep your inventory of flammable chemicals as low as possible. Use flammable storage cabinets if the amount requires it.
- **Science:** Keep an up-to-date list of chemicals at the office in the event there is a fire.
- **Extinguishers:** should be kept in rooms where flammables are stored (science, CTE, etc.) and be inspected yearly.

04

COMBUSTIBLES

- **Artwork on Walls in Classrooms:** Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached.
- **Artwork on Walls in Corridors:** Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of corridors to not more than 20 percent of the wall area.
- **Combustibles** cannot be stacked higher than 12 feet. Check with your Fire Marshal if you have questions on a specific item. **Candles should not be used in schools.**

05

STORAGE

- **Storage at Ceilings:** Storage shall not be closer than 2 feet to the ceiling in non-sprinklered facilities; nor closer than 18 inches to the sprinkler deflectors in facilities with sprinklers.
- **Uncluttered:** Keep classrooms and storage areas neat and uncluttered.



**SNOHOMISH
COUNTY** 
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Thank you to the Snohomish County Fire Marshal for help in developing the content in this handout.

Contact your local fire agency for questions and requirements regarding fire safety at your school.