



FAIRBANKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

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Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
520 5th Ave
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Teachers,

As you prepare your classrooms for the new school year, it is critical to keep fire safety in mind. I have made a list of code violations that are commonly found in school classrooms. Avoiding these code violations will limit disruption and ease the inspection process as I conduct fire safety inspections during the school year. Be advised that this list does not contain every potential code violation that may be encountered. Any violations found during inspections will be required to be corrected. Please follow these guidelines as you set up your classroom:

- Powerstrips must be equipped with surge protection and must be plugged directly into a permanent wall outlet. Daisy-chaining powerstrips (plugging one powerstrip into another powerstrip) is not permitted.
- Cords may not extend through or under rugs, doors, walls, or ceilings. Cords may not create a tripping hazard or extend across walkways.
- Extension cords are not permitted. If a longer cord is needed, a powerstrip that is equipped with surge protection may be used instead.
- Ensure that laptop/tablet charging stations and carts are plugged directly into the wall. Daisy-chaining charging stations, plugging charging stations into power strips, or plugging charging stations into extension cords is not permitted.
- Exit doors must be easily recognizable. Draperies, coverings, and decorations that obstruct or conceal doors are prohibited. Covering doors with combustible materials is not permitted.
- Do not block the exit! The entire width of the exit must remain clear at all times. Furniture, storage, personal belongings, and other obstructions must be kept out of walkways and doorways.
- If your school has a fire sprinkler system, make sure that storage items remain at least 18 inches below and away from sprinkler heads. If your school does not have a sprinkler system, storage must remain at least 2 ft. below the ceiling.
- Artwork, decorations, and teaching materials on classroom walls is limited to not more than 50% of the wall area to which they are attached.

- Fire extinguishers and fire alarm pull stations must remain visible and accessible at all times. Decorations, storage, furniture, etc. may not conceal or obstruct access to fire extinguishers and fire alarm pull stations.
- Space heaters must be plugged directly into a permanent wall outlet. Do not plug space heaters into powerstrips or extension cords. Heaters must be provided with at least three feet of clearance from anything that can burn.
- Do not store personal items, books, paperwork, or other combustible items on top of classroom heaters.
- A working clearance of 36 inches must be provided in front of electrical panels.
- String lights and Christmas lights may not be used as permanent light fixtures or decorations. These lights may not be installed for a period of longer than 90 days.
- Rated fire doors must remain closed! Propping open fire doors is prohibited. Door chocks, wedges, kick down devices, etc. are not permitted.

Thank you for your commitment to the health, safety, and education of our students. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great school year!

Respectfully,

Moira Townsend

Deputy Fire Marshal

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