



This
School had a
Fire

Open the door
to reporting and
reducing the risk
of school fires

Report Fires



Report

Reduce Risk

Youth-set Fires

Evacuate

Every fire

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) require all fires be reported and investigated.

- ORS 476.210
- ORS 476.030
- OAR 837-040-0010
- OFC 401.3

Every time

Every time a fire occurs or evidence of firesetting activity is discovered, staff should preserve the fire scene. Call the fire department immediately.

Any size

- Every fire starts small.
- Every thirty seconds, a fire doubles in size and within minutes can threaten an entire school.
- The size of the fire does not reflect the motive of the person who started the fire.

Anywhere

Report fires set in:

- restrooms and locker rooms
- playground structures
- playing fields and landscaping
- decoration on walls and bulletin boards
- concealed spaces (including storage areas) within the structure
- trash cans and dumpsters
- student lockers and personal property
- parking lots and vehicles

Reduce Risk

- Illuminate exterior and entrances.
- Paint buildings a light color.
- Install burglar and fire alarm systems.
- Trim shrubs and remove signs that obstruct the view of the building.
- Keep combustible materials away from buildings, including garbage, recycling bins, outhouses and pallets.
- Restrict access to the roof and upper floors.
- Keep school grounds clear of fuel sources such as landscape trimmings, newspapers, leftover paint, old rags and other trash.
- Make sure vacant, storage and other infrequently visited areas and buildings are secure. Conducting regular walkthroughs of these areas/buildings will help to identify areas of concern or previously damaged property and allow for proper safeguards to be put in place.
- Disciplinary handbooks should identify consequences for bringing fire tools to school.
- Install video cameras on school premises, especially in locations where arson is an ongoing immediate concern.
- Anytime school is not in session, consider using police, private security, or partner with volunteer or community group patrols to discourage arson and vandalism. Such activity will discourage the impression that the school will be an easy target.
- Maintain grounds and buildings so community pride is high and vandalism is discouraged.



Youth-set arson fires

- Approximately twenty percent of school fires are confirmed to be started by youths under the age of eighteen. A significantly higher percentage are determined to be human-caused and suspicious.
- Prompt reporting assists in identifying youths using fire in an inappropriate and unsafe way.
- Unless there is intervention, youths involved with fire once are five times more likely to use fire inappropriately again.
- Alternatives to expulsion exist such as in-school suspension coupled with accountability programs in the community.
- Prevention programs that teach youths about the legal, financial and emotional costs of school fires are available from the Office of State Fire Marshal.



Evacuate



If it becomes necessary to evacuate

Every school is required to have an evacuation plan in place in the event of an emergency. Involve the fire department in the plan development. They are able to contribute fire-specific life and property-saving plan details. While each school will have

its own evacuation guidelines to follow, there are certain basic considerations common to all evacuation plans.



Plan ahead

Develop plans that indicate the primary and secondary routes for evacuation, locations of portable fire extinguishers, manual fire alarm pull stations and the locations of assembly areas outside the building. If the building has elevators, instructions should clearly state that they are not to be used.

Maintain escape routes

Monitor and maintain escape routes: keep them clear of obstructions; do not block, bar or lock doors when the building is occupied; flammable materials should not be stored near or within any part of the building used as an escape route.

Account for all students

Develop guidelines for safe, quick and efficient evacuation.

Develop a protocol to account for all students. Alert the fire department if someone is unaccounted for and report where they were last seen.

Consider needs of students with disabilities

Develop special provisions for the evacuation of people with disabilities.

Communicate with families

Develop a protocol for communicating with families.



This information provided by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal in partnership with the Special Districts Association of Oregon and PACE.



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