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## **Fire Extinguishers & Emergency Wash Stations**

### **527 CMR 10.02**

Says where, how many and what kind of fire extinguishers and emergency wash stations schools need.

Has testing and inspection requirements.

Labs are required to have emergency wash systems (showers) or fire blankets and signage.

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## **Chemistry Labs**

### **527 CMR 14**

Permits and special storage arrangements may be required based on the type and quantity of chemicals stored.

Don't store chemicals alphabetically.

Think about the life cycle and hazardous waste disposal when purchasing and storing chemicals.

See 527 CMR 10 for emergency wash stations, fire blankets and signage.

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## **General Housekeeping**

Store cleaning chemicals in a safe and secure area (not next to heat sources.)

Shut off the appliances in the teacher/staff lounge each day.

Teach kitchen fire safety to cafeteria staff and include them in fire drills. Kitchen fires are one of the leading causes of fires in schools.

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## **School Fire Reporting Law**

**MGL c.148 s.2A**

**OSFM Advisory 6/1/2006, 8/1/2006**

Requires schools to report all fires to the local fire department.

Requires fire departments to report all school fires to the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS).

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## **No Smoking in Schools**

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## **Fire Protection Systems**

### **527 CMR 1.06, 527 CMR 11(Kitchen)**

Requires schools to inspect, test and maintain fire alarm, fire sprinkler and kitchen suppression systems.

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## **Fire and Life Safety Education**

**MGL c.71 s.1**

**DOE Health Curriculum Frameworks**

The Student Awareness of Fire Education or S.A.F.E. Program has trained firefighter-educators to work with classroom teachers.

Consider using fire safety topics for practice MCAS essay questions.

*School fire prevention requires teamwork. Local fire departments want to work closely with local school officials to create safe schools and to help keep them that way.*

# **Fire Prevention in Schools**



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A school is one of the most important resources a community has. A fire destroys costly bricks and mortars but also the heart of the community.

This pamphlet is designed to give a quick summary of the fire prevention regulations affecting schools with directions on where to find more detailed information.

Fire prevention laws can be found in MGL Chapter 148 and most fire prevention regulations affecting schools can be found in 527 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 10. The Department of Fire Services' website has these and many helpful Office the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Advisories - [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and look for *OSFM Advisories* under *News & Events* and under *Fire Prevention*.

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## **School Fire Drills**

**527 CMR 10.09**  
**OSFM Advisory 6/27/2001**

Fire Departments are required to conduct fire drills in schools four times a year including one within three days of the start of school.

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## **School Evacuation and Multi-Hazard Plans**

**Section 363 of Chapter 159**  
**of the Acts of 2000**

School superintendents are required to meet with the local police and fire chiefs to develop a multi-hazard evacuation plan.

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## **Place of Assembly (Theatres, Auditorium, Gym, Cafeteria)**

**527 CMR 10.17**

Need a certificate of inspection from the building official which will set the occupancy limit.

New severe penalties for violating occupancy limits and blocked egress, passed in the aftermath of the fire at The Station nightclub.

See *School Wall Decoration* regulations for proms, dances, etc.

See regulations on drapery and curtains.

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## **Upholstered Furniture, Molded Chairs and Re- Upholstered Furniture**

**527 CMR 29**  
**OSFM Advisory 12/20/2002**

Requirements are different for sprinklered and unsprinklered buildings.

Flammability testing requirements for furniture.

Furniture should be resistant to fire. It can produce volumes of toxic smoke.

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## **Decorations, Curtains, Draperies and Window Treatments**

**527 CMR 21**

Requires certification that these products meet flammability standards.

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## **Theatrical Special Effects**

**527 CMR 2.09**  
**OSFM Advisory 8/1/2003 and 1/5/2007**

Need a permit from local fire department to use special effects and pyrotechnics (including flash powder and flash paper).

Must be conducted by licensed individual.

Failure to do so constitutes a violation of MGL c148 s.34A with a \$5,000 fine and/or 2 1/2 years in prison - passed in the aftermath of the fire at The Station nightclub.

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## **School Wall Decorations (Uses of Paper Materials)**

**527 CMR 10.09 (5)**  
**OSFM Advisory 10/21/2003, 11/1/2006**  
DFS has an entire webpage devoted to this topic: [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) click on *Fire Prevention* then *School Wall Regulations*.

- » FAQs
- » Regulations Explained
- » Overview

Regulates how, where and how much paper decorations may safely be displayed on walls in sprinklered and unsprinklered buildings.

When building new schools, consider this regulation and include bulletin board design to safely display paper materials.

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## **Fire Lanes**

**527 CMR 10.03**

Regulations on designation, maintenance and preventing obstruction of fire lanes.

Keep clear at all times.