



FIRE SAFE SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CAMPUS TOOLKIT

- ◆ Reporting a School Fire
- ◆ Referring Students Who Set Fires
- ◆ Common Fire Code Violations
- ◆ Fire Drill Records
- ◆ Fire & Life Safety Education Programs

COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
Integrated Risk Reduction Program



COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
Christopher P. Riley, MS, CFO, FiFireE

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The Colorado Springs Fire Department has compiled this toolkit of information to assist you in maintaining a Fire Safe school. Please take the time to review the policy on mandatory fire reporting, how to handle juvenile set fires in your school, conducting emergency drills, and the most common school fire code violations. Also included are the fire and life safety educational programs that the CSFD offers to schools and a list of resources which you and your staff will find useful.

To show the importance of fire safety in schools, consider these facts:

- Since 2012, the Colorado Springs Fire Department has received over 270 referrals for youth misuse of fire.
- Juveniles account for over 50% of arson arrests in the City of Colorado Springs.
- From January 2012 through May 2014 there were 66 youth set fires in schools here in the Pikes Peak region.
- In the past five years, over one million dollars of property loss has resulted from youth set fires in Colorado Springs.
- Nationally, 85% of all children killed in fires die as a result of a fire they started.
- Colorado law requires that all fires which occur on school property must be reported regardless of the size.

I hope that the information provided in this toolkit will be helpful to you in your efforts to maintain fire safe schools. If you have any questions or would like further information please feel free to contact the Colorado Springs Fire Department, Division of the Fire Marshal at 719-385-5950.

Respectfully,

Christopher P. Riley

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"Providing the highest quality problem solving and emergency service to our community since 1894."



EMERGENCY

CALL 9-1-1 TO:

- Stop a Crime
- Report a Fire
- Save a Life

Call 444-7000
For Non-Emergency
Assistance in
Colorado Springs

The logo for safe2tell features the word "safe" in a red serif font, followed by a red square containing a white number "2", and then the word "tell" in a red serif font with a registered trademark symbol. Below the logo is the tagline "Make a Call. Make a Difference." and the contact information "1-877-542-7233" and "safe2tell.org".
Make a Call. Make a Difference.
1-877-542-7233
safe2tell.org

MANDATORY FIRE REPORTING

After any immediate danger has passed you **MUST** report **ANY** fire regardless of size or time since the incident as stated by law. Please contact the Colorado Springs Fire Department at **719-385-7491** or

schoolfirereport@springsgov.com and provide the following information:

- Your name, position and contact information
- Location and time of fire
- Description of damage
- Any injuries

Potential school fire scenarios in or near a school campus include but are not limited to:



Using matches & lighters, a heated light bulb or magnifying glass to ignite paper, vegetation or combustibles.



Making, possessing and/or activating any kind of bomb-like device.



Using chemicals to cause a fire in a chemistry, science laboratory or other classroom or on other school property.



Possession of, selling, and/or lighting of firecrackers, smoke bombs or other types of fireworks.

By law (International Fire Code), all fires, ignitions or explosions shall be reported, even when the fire was put out by a school employee or student. Mandatory fire reporting is the law and NOT the exception in every situation, under all circumstances.

IF A STUDENT SETS A FIRE

After any immediate danger has passed and you have found out the name(s) of the youth involved, follow this process as soon as possible:

STEP 1:

Ensure all the steps for mandatory fire reporting have been completed.

STEP 2:

Contact the Colorado Springs Fire Department Firesetting Specialist at **719-385-7366** or firefactor@springsgov.com and provide the following information (if available):

- Your name, position and contact information
- Name of the person(s) that set the fire
- Type of ignition source
- Location and time of fire
- Description of damage
- Any injuries
- Parent/guardian name and contact information



STEP 3:

Contact the parent/guardian of the student and have them respond to the school to meet with school administrators, and in some cases a fire investigator. If your school has a School Resource Officer (SRO) they should be contacted too.

STEP 4:

As part of your school discipline policy, incorporate **mandatory** attendance in the Colorado Springs Fire Department's FireFactor² program. Inform the parent/guardian that a referral has been made to this free educational program. Inform them that a representative from the CSFD will be contacting them to schedule the initial Firesetting Risk Assessment. CSFD staff are always willing and available to participate in the student discipline process/plan.

THE CRIME OF ARSON

The law in the state of Colorado is very specific as it relates to fireworks, reckless burning, and arson, regardless of where the offense occurs. One thought to consider is that a child can be arrested in Colorado at the age of ten for setting a fire even if he/she did not mean for the fire to damage anything or get out of control. Colorado has four “degrees” of arson, a statute dealing with woods and prairies, and a municipal code for illegal fireworks. **Children ten years of age or older can be arrested for any one of these statutes.**

Arson in the First Degree – 18 - 4 - 102:

This crime involves the burning of a building or occupied structure. First degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender knowingly set fire to, burned, or caused to be burned any building or occupied structure of another without owner’s consent. First degree arson is a class 3 felony.

Arson in the Second Degree – 18 - 4 - 103:

This crime involves the burning of any “property” (other than a building or occupied structure) of another. Second degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender knowingly set fire to, burned, or caused to be burned any property (not a building or occupied structure) of another without that person’s consent. Second degree arson is a class 4 felony if the damage is \$100.00 or more, or a class 2 misdemeanor if the damage is less than \$100.00.

Arson in the Third Degree – 18 – 4 - 104:

This crime involves the burning of property with the intent to defraud. Third degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender by means of fire or explosives intentionally damaged any property with the intent to defraud. Third degree arson is a class 4 felony.

Arson in the Fourth Degree – 18 - 4 - 105:

This crime involves the reckless starting of a fire or causing an explosion. The penalty depends upon whether the act endangers persons or property. Fourth degree arson is proved by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender knowingly or recklessly starts or maintains a fire or causes an explosion on his own property or that of another and places another person in danger of death or serious bodily injury, or any building or occupied structure of another in danger of damage. Fourth degree arson is a class 4 felony if a person is endangered, a class 2 misdemeanor if only property worth more than \$100.00 is endangered, or a class 3 misdemeanor if only property worth less than \$100.00 is endangered.

Firing Woods and Prairie – 18 – 13 – 109 AND 18 – 13 – 109.5:

On property of another the offender knowingly and without lawful authority or with criminal negligence set on fire/caused to be set on fire, any woods/prairie/grounds of other description other than their own. Spreading to property of another the offender knowingly or with criminal negligence set a fire/caused a fire to be set, and permitted that fire to pass from their own grounds to the injury of any other person. Firing Woods and Prairie is a class 2 misdemeanor or class 3 felony if the fire was intentionally set.

Manufacture, Sale And Discharge of Fireworks: 9.7.302 (B):

The City of Colorado Springs municipal code reads as follows: It is unlawful for any person to possess, store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail or use or explode any fireworks (Ord. 92-77; Ord. 01-42). Several other jurisdictions within El Paso and Teller Counties have similar municipal codes that refer specifically to the illegal use and possession of fireworks. All types of fireworks with a fuse and or requiring a flame for ignition are **ILLEGAL** in Colorado Springs and are subject to a fine up to \$2500 and 189 days in jail.



FIRE SAFE SCHOOLS

TOP SEVEN School Fire Code Violations

1. **Excessive wall coverage in the classrooms.** The acceptable limits for hanging student artwork/classwork is a maximum of 20% of the wall area coverage for buildings without a fire sprinkler system and 50% for buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems.
2. **Excessive wall coverage in the corridors.** In school corridors/hallways no more than than 20% of the wall area can be covered with artwork, classwork, or decorations.
3. **Blocked corridors and exit doors.** Corridors/hallways and exits doors must be kept clear and unobstructed *at all times*. It is unacceptable *at any time* to have boxes, chairs, desks, recycle bins, or unattended deliveries left in front of exit routes. Desks and tables used in the halls as auxiliary teaching areas must not obstruct exit pathways.
4. **Improper use of extension cords.** Extension cords may only be used on a temporary basis and must not be installed for permanent use. Extension cords must not be connected to each other and should never be attached to permanent fixtures or pass through holes in walls. Extension cords should never be placed under rugs or taped down for extended use. Power strips with surge protectors are acceptable when plugged directly into an outlet.
5. **Propping open fire doors.** Fire doors serve an important purpose in the event of a fire and can help to contain heat and smoke. Leaving fire doors wedged open to promote easy access to exit points from a building is prohibited. Doors may only be held open by an approved device and should be kept closed at all other times.
6. **Failure to illuminate exits.** Exit signs shall be internally and externally illuminated and positioned where occupants can readily identify the exit pathway from the building. Exit signs should never be obscured from view.
7. **Failure to remove holiday lighting.** Decorative lighting (i.e. holiday lights) must be temporary (no more than 90 days) and must comply with fire code during the display duration.

**Data obtained from 2013 CSFD inspection reports.*



FIRE SAFE SCHOOLS

Community Education School Programs

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN: FireFighters are Your Friends

Firefighters establish a foundation for children to understand the role of the fire department in our community. The firefighter will show his/her bunker gear to the students.

Call 719-385-7251 to schedule

KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE: Get Low & Go with Firefighters

Firefighters will introduce some basic fire safety skills appropriate for younger students. A truck/engine will often accompany the firefighters and the students will have an opportunity to get a "tour" of the apparatus.

Call 719-385-7251 to schedule

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Do the Right Thing - Distracted Driving

This 45 minute presentation is offered in the Prom/Graduation season and is conducted in the high school parking lot. A staged traffic accident caused by texting and driving is set up with student participation as "victims". Firefighters extricate the victims from the car and they speak to the deadly consequences of distracted driving.

Call 719-385-5950 to schedule



SECOND GRADE: SafetyFactor²

This interactive 50 minute presentation is designed to teach students skills to prevent injury from falls, pedestrian accidents, and household hazards. It also educates them on what they should know in an emergency situation including how and when to activate the 9-1-1 system.

Call 719-385-7376 to schedule
Only offered to 2nd grade in the spring semester



SIXTH GRADE: FireFactor

This media-rich 50 minute presentation is designed to educate students about general fire safety, accountability, decision-making, and the legal, financial and physical consequences of fire misuse.

Call 719-385-7366 to schedule
Only offered to 6th grade in the fall semester.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ It is required by the International Fire Code to do fire evacuation drills each month.
- ◆ Excessive wall coverage in the classroom is the TOP fire code violation in schools.
- ◆ It is mandatory to report ALL school fires no matter how small.
- ◆ Youth arson is on the rise and is the fastest growing juvenile crime in the nation.
- ◆ In the past five years, over one million dollars of property loss has resulted from youth set fires in Colorado Springs.
- ◆ Fire and burn-related deaths are the second leading cause of accidental death of children under the age of fifteen.

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