

SCHOOL OCCUPANCIES

The B.C. Fire Code requires building owners/occupants to comply with the requirements on this checklist.

These requirements are in addition to those listed in the Fire Safety & You booklet.

School uses Include: Public and private kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools, & post-secondary institutions

Checklist: Common Fire Service Requirements

- Address:** must be visible from road and lane, free from foliage, trees, etc. and in a contrasting colour.
- Chemical storage:** all chemicals must be separated by class and stored in an approved manner.
- Combustible artwork:** shall not exceed 20% of the wall or ceiling area.
- Emergency lighting:** may be provided by battery packs with remote and attached heads, or by emergency generators that will illuminate specified A/C fixtures or remote light heads. Must be operational, with no visible damage, and serviced and tagged annually by a certified technician.
- Exit doors:** must not be locked or blocked from either the inside or outside. Must be unlocked from the inside when the building is occupied. Must have panic hardware that releases when a force of 20 pounds or less is applied.
- Exit signs:** must be visible and remain illuminated at all times the building is occupied.
- Fire alarm systems:** must have a working A/C power on bulb and be in good working condition with no audible or visual damage. Must have a current service tag (within the last 12 months) and up-to-date logbook.
- Fire doors:** must not be blocked or wedged open, including stairwell doors. Must have closures and no wedges to hold open fire rated doors.
- Fire hydrants:** must be accessible, free of damage and serviced within the specified date. Private hydrants require annual service, with records kept on site.
- Fire lanes:** must have an adequate clear width of six unobstructed metres.
- Fire separations:** must have no holes or openings that compromise their purpose.
- Flammable liquids:** must be stored in approved containers, cannot be dispensed into metal containers unless grounded, cannot be stored next to exits. Vapours cannot accumulate.
- Garbage disposal:** commercial containers must be located three metres from combustible buildings. If inside, commercial containers should have tight-fitting lids and be in fire-separated rooms.
- Portable fire extinguishers must:**
 - be located adjacent to corridors or aisles that provide access to exits.
 - be mounted in a visible location, accessible, and serviced and tagged at least once every 12 months by a certified technician.
 - be full and functioning (no damage, corrosion, leaks, malfunctioning parts or clogged nozzles.)
 - have a minimum rating 2A-10BC.
- Sprinkler and standpipe connections:** must be capped, free of debris and accessible.
- Sprinkler valves:** must be in the open position, either locked and chained or sealed and monitored electronically. No storage is permitted within 18 inches of the bottom of sprinkler heads.
- Waste paper containers:** in public areas must not be combustible.



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