

COMMON FIRE HAZARDS IN THE CLASSROOM

Electrical Hazards

Overloaded Circuits

- Do not overload electrical circuits
- Do not use “cube” adapters or multi-plug extension cords
- Do use only circuit breaker protected, UL listed power strips

Power Strips

- Must be UL listed and have circuit breaker protection
- Must plug directly into a permanent outlet
- Do not plug one power strip into another – “Daisy Chain”
- Do not plug power strips into an extension cord

Extension Cords

- Do not use extension cords in place of permanent wiring
- Do not attach extension cords to structures
- Do not run extension cords through walls, ceilings, cabinets, or shelves
- Roll up extension cords when not in use to protect from damage and eliminate trip hazards

Electrical Panels

- Do not cover electrical panels with decorations
- Do not block access to electrical panels
- Provide at least 30 inches of clear space in front of electrical panels

Other Electrical Safety

- Keep combustible materials away from electrical connections
- Keep cover plates in place on switches, outlets, and electrical boxes
- Contain electrical connections in junction boxes
- Make sure electrical connections are tight and secure
- Protect all electrical cords from damage. Replace worn or damaged cords

Combustible Decorations

- Calif. Health and Safety Code, Calif. Code of Regulations Title 19, and Calif. Fire Code all address combustible decorations in schools
- Drapes, hangings, and similar decorative material must be made of flame resistant material, be treated with a flame retardant and documented, or meet Chico Fire Department standards for combustible decorations
- Chico Fire Department Standard: Materials may be combustible if
 - Size is no more than 9 square feet
 - Items are separated horizontally and vertically
 - Items are no more than 2 layers thick
- THE KEY: Provide space and avoid accumulation. Avoid a “wallpapering” effect.

Storage

- Storage must be kept orderly (Can we walk from one side of the room to the other?)
- Combustible storage must be kept 2 feet below the ceiling
- Secure storage which may fall and cause injury
- Do not block exits with storage
- Do not store items which may fall and block exits near doorways, hallways or in aisles
- KEEP THINGS THAT BURN AWAY FROM THINGS THAT GET HOT

Fire Protection

- Fire extinguishers must be visible and accessible – not hidden or blocked
- Fire alarm pull stations must be visible and accessible
- Horns, strobes, and other warning devices must be in proper working order
- Fire Evacuation drills must be practiced