

FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Background

The BC Fire Code, based on the National Fire Code of Canada regulations, indicate that for schools attended by children, total evacuation fire drills shall be held at least three times in each of the fall and spring school terms. (Ref: Division B 2.8.3.2.(b))

Local fire department officials have indicated that they would be pleased to give assistance in explaining the use of various types of fire extinguishers.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) requires fire extinguishers be distributed in schools. It is essential that all discharged or missing extinguishers be reported immediately to the Manager of Maintenance, for recharging or replacement.

(Ref: BC Fire Code, NFPA 10 National Fire Prevention Assoc.)

Fire alarm systems in schools must be inspected and tested in accordance with the Province of British Columbia Guideline No. 91-2. (Ref: BC Fire Code Section 6.3)

Procedures

1. Activation - Fire Alarm Systems

It is a requirement of the Office of the Fire Commissioner that local fire departments be advised of all fire alarm calls, even though they may be false.

2. Testing Fire Alarm Systems

This involves pulling one pull-station each month and verifying the successful receipt of an alarm at the monitoring company, Telus Custom Security Systems, and the correct sounding of the school evacuation alarm. Prior notification to the monitoring company must be provided.

3. Fire Hazards

Combustible material such as lumber, cardboard, paper, etc. must not be stacked outside of schools, or in electrical or boiler rooms.

All flammable and combustible liquids shall be stored in approved storage tanks or containers

Reference: Section 65, 85, School Act
 BC Fire Code 2018 (or current version)
 NFPA 10
 OFC

Last reviewed: March 2021