



## STORAGE

One of the items that is repeatedly identified in the districts' site inspection reports is the way that items are stored in classrooms = **precariously**. If there is a flat space in the classroom (e.g.. the top of a cabinet), it will be used for storage.

There is a perfect storm scenario at most schools. Most large built in cabinets in classrooms are next to the door or exit path. Teachers store many layers of boxes or large, bulky items (spinning wheels, easels, canoes, large paper mache projects) over head or on the built-in cabinets.

Exit doors and exit paths are not an area for storing large items overhead.

We live in earthquake county. The ground shakes and unsecured items fall. Those items will either fall on students and staff, or fall in the exit paths.

### **History of stored items in schools and risk management:**

- Risk Manager (RM) conducts a site inspection and documents large, unsecured boxes stored on cabinet tops next to exit door or exit path. She is told by staff that this is OK because the boxes are empty. False—Empty boxes still cause injury when they fall from above and they still block the exit doors and paths when they fall.
- RM notifies districts that items can be stored SINGLE LAYER HIGH if a lip is installed to prevent them from falling.
- Subsequent inspections reveal lips installed and three or more layers of items stored on cabinet tops.
- RM debates which type of therapy would be best for tight neck, gritted teeth, and eye tic....

### **Storage choices for districts:**

- 1. Do not store items on cabinet tops.**
- 2. Items are stored single layer high if a lip is installed.**

**If lack of proper storage is documented and an injury/claim occurs due to stored items falling on student/staff or in the exit path, that claim may not be covered. The district would be singly responsible for paying for the claim.**

