

CLASSROOM SAFETY

The latest site inspections conducted by a third party illustrated a scary trend in our north coast school—employees bringing in items and making some choices that increase the districts' liability.

Observation: Candles

What the heck are lit candles doing in a school?

Liability: There should not be a lit flame in a classroom or office or anywhere else on a school site (unless it is part of instruction - science, industrial arts)

Correction: Remove all candles from school sites.



Observation: Scented plug-ins

Liability:

1. Many students have allergies. There is no reason to bring this potential allergen onto the school site.
2. Many of these products have been recalled due to catching on fire.

Correction: Remove all scented plug-ins from school sites. To improve air quality, open the classroom windows.

Observation: Classroom door windows are being covered by paper.

Liability: The door needs to be used as it was originally designed. The Fire department needs the window to be usable. If the fire alarm panel shows that the fire is in a classroom, the fire personnel needs to use the window to see if the room is safe for their entry.

Correction: Keep the window uncovered.

Debate: We need to keep the window covered in case of lockdown. Have a piece of paper taped to the door or next to the door to cover the window if necessary. It is more likely to have a fire on campus than an active shooter.

Observation: Employees are bringing in lamps that are meant for residential usage.

Liability: Fire

Correction: Do not bring in any lighting fixtures; allow the school to purchase the appropriate lighting fixtures for a school setting.



CLASSROOM SAFETY (cont)



Observation: Extension cords are used for permanent wiring.

1. Employees try to solve one problem (a tripping hazard) by pinning or stapling an extension cord to the wall.
2. Employees get really creative by going from outlet to extension cord to extension cord to item that requires electricity. Or they change it up and go from outlet to power strip to power strip to extension cord to items that requires electricity.

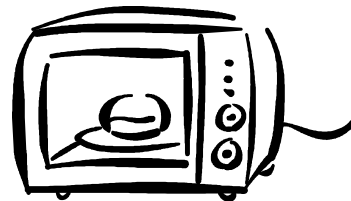
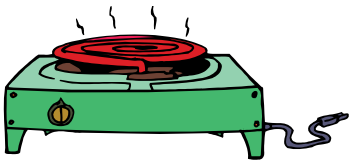
Liability: Fire Hazard

Correction: Outlet to extension cord to item that requires electricity or outlet to power strip to item that requires electricity.

Observation: Employees are bringing in soft furniture (couches, love seats, chairs, recliners)

Liability: Fire Hazard and these items are very hard to clean (lice heaven)

Correction: Do not bring any furniture in; allow the school to purchase the appropriate furniture for a school setting.



Observation: An exorbitant number of classrooms have refrigerators and/or coffee pots and/or microwaves. Many have the coffee pots and microwaves balanced on the refrigerators.

Liability: Fire, falling objects during an earthquake, invitation for pests in the classroom.

Correction: Keep the appliances in the teachers' break rooms and cafeterias. This will also assist the schools in keeping their utility costs down.

Observation: Soccer Goals – not secured

Liability: Since the mid '90s, there have been several bulletins regarding the importance of soccer goals to be secured. Students have been injured (some fatally) by hanging on them and having the goals fall on them or have been injured by moving them and trying to tilt them up resulting in the goals falling on them.

Correction: Guarantee that all soccer goals are secured. Refer to <http://www.cpsc.gov/SPSCPUB/PUBS/Soccer.pdf> for securing guidelines.

