

**FIRE PREVENTION**

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**PREAMBLE**

Because of the large number of people involved and the nature of some of the activities, schools must always be considered at risk from fire. The risk can be minimized, however, by strict observance of regulations for fire prevention and fire drills.

**POLICY**

**FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS FOR EACH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT SHALL BE FRAMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BURNABY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIRE SERVICES ACT, BURNABY MUNICIPAL BYLAWS, AND THE NATIONAL FIRE CODE OF CANADA. IN FIRE PREVENTION IN THE DISTRICT, THE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES SHALL HAVE PARAMOUNT AUTHORITY, BUT THEY WILL DEFER TO THE BURNABY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.**

**OBJECTIVES**

To minimize the risk from fire in all buildings in the District.

**REGULATIONS**

The British Columbia Fire Services Act is a lengthy document containing much information which is not applicable to schools. Excerpts are provided to give principals an understanding of their responsibilities under this Act and the powers and duties of the Fire Commissioner or designate.

1. It is the duty of the occupier . . . of a building . . . to report the fire immediately to the local assistant, or to a Provincial or municipal police officer or constable in whose district the fire occurs (11(1)).
2. It is the duty of every . . . occupier of, and every person . . . employed at a building . . . where a fire occurs to furnish, at the request of the local assistant, fire commissioner or the commissioner's inspectors, information...relating to a fire or the property it destroyed or damaged (11(2)).
3. On complaint of a person interested or, if believed advisable, without complaint, the fire commissioner and the commissioner's inspectors may at all reasonable hours enter any

premises anywhere in British Columbia to inspect them . . . (21).

4. A municipal council must provide for a regular system of inspection of...public buildings in the municipality (26(1)). A municipal council may authorize persons, in addition to the local assistant, to exercise within the municipality some or all of the powers under sections 21 to 23. (26(2))
5. An owner or occupier of a . . . public building which is required . . . to have a means of exit must do the following:
  - a. Keep posted in all main halls and at the intersection of all cross halls . . . conspicuous signs indicating the means of exit;
  - b. Keep posted in each . . . room a conspicuous notice describing the means of exit, with instructions to be followed in the event of fire;
  - c. (f) Ensure that smoke and fire doors or closures are kept closed when not in use for access, unless they are automatically controlled by an approved fire or smoke detection system;
  - d. (h) For a school . . . adopt, and have all persons in the premises practise, an approved fire drill system (31(2)).
6. The outside doors and the main inside doors of a . . . school . . . (32(1))
  - a. must open freely outward, and
  - b. while the building is so used, must not be bolted, locked or otherwise secured shut or obstructed in a manner that . . . prevents the rapid exit of persons inside the building.

The gates in a fence enclosing a building used as a...school... must, if not hung to open outward, be kept open by proper fastenings when the building is so used. (32(2))
7. If the owner or occupier of a . . . public building fails to provide, keep in good repair, alter or improve a means of exit, alarm gong or other equipment required by this Part, the local assistant authorized by this Part to inspect the...public building may in writing order the owner or occupier to comply with the requirement within a reasonable time stated in the order. (33(1)) The local assistant must deliver the order to the owner or occupier, who must comply with it. (33(2))

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Date Adopted: 1955-08  
Date(s) Revised: 1960-04  
1974-01

Cross References:  
Statutory: School Act 15 (1), 93(1), BC Fire  
Services Act  
Other: