

# Report School Fires

## Every fire

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) require all fires be reported and investigated.

- ORS 476.210
- ORS 476.030
- OAR 837-040-0010
- OFC 401.3.1

## Every time

Every time a fire occurs or evidence of firesetting activity is discovered, staff should preserve the fire scene. Call the fire department immediately.

## Any size

- Every fire starts small.
- Every thirty seconds, a fire doubles in size and within minutes can threaten an entire school.
- The size of the fire does not reflect the motive of the person who started the fire.

## Anywhere

Report fires set in:

- restrooms and locker rooms
- playground structures
- playing fields and landscaping
- decoration on walls and bulletin boards
- concealed spaces (including storage areas) within the structure
- trash cans and dumpsters
- student lockers and personal property
- parking lots and vehicles

# Reduce Risk



- Illuminate exterior and entrances.
- Paint buildings a light color.
- Install burglar and fire alarm systems.
- Trim shrubs and remove signs that obstruct the view of the building.
- Keep combustible materials away from buildings, including garbage, recycling bins, outhouses and pallets.
- Restrict access to the roof and upper floors.
- Keep school grounds clear of fuel sources such as landscape trimmings, newspapers, leftover paint, old rags and other trash.
- Make sure vacant, storage and other infrequently visited areas and buildings are secure. Conducting regular walkthroughs of these areas/buildings will help to identify areas of concern or previously damaged property and allow for proper safeguards to be put in place.
- Disciplinary handbooks should identify consequences for bringing fire tools to school.
- Install video cameras on school premises, especially in locations where arson is an ongoing immediate concern.
- Anytime school is not in session, consider using police, private security, or partner with volunteer or community group patrols to discourage arson and vandalism. Such activity will discourage the impression that the school will be an easy target.
- Maintain grounds and buildings so community pride is high and vandalism is discouraged.



A Message from the Office of State Fire Marshal and Special Districts Association of Oregon.