





Common Safety Violations in School Classrooms

- Classroom exits shall remain clear and not blocked by any obstructions, such as cabinets that open into the exit path.
- Classroom emergency exit windows shall not be blocked by items stored under or in front of the windows.
- Classroom fire extinguishers shall be mounted in plain view and not blocked or hidden.
- Exit signs for emergency window exits shall be visible at all times. Illuminated exit signs, when provided shall be illuminated at all times.
- Classroom exit doors shall not have decorations on the door.
- Decorations or classroom materials that are suspended from the ceilings or walls shall be treated to be flame retardant and never impede an exit.
- Suspending or hanging decorative items from fire sprinkler pipes is prohibited.
- Classroom wall decorations shall not extend out from the walls or cover exits signs.
- Suspending decorative or instructional items from the signs hanging from the ceiling is not allowed.
- Material stored on top of shelves or cabinets may not be closer than 18" to the ceiling. This material shall also be secured so that, during an earthquake, it will not fall. Unfastened or unrestrained materials shall be removed.
- Materials stored on top of shelves or cabinets may not be closer than 18" to automatic sprinkler heads.
- Excess paper and other supplies, shall be stored in an orderly manner in approved storage closets and not in open classrooms.
- Hazardous materials, such as cleaning products and chemicals used for instruction, shall be stored in approved secure locations and always kept out of the reach of students. Science chemicals and hazardous materials must be kept and stored in accordance with the Chemical Hygiene Plan. Log onto http://www.sbccd.org/District_Faculty_,-a-,_Staff_Information-Forms/Environmental_Health_and_Safety/Safety_Programs/Chemical_Hygiene_Program.aspx to access the Chemical Hygiene Plan for SBVC/CHC.

- All bookcases and cabinets over 42" tall shall be secured to walls.
- Approved portable heaters shall be positioned so that they are not close to combustibles.
- Do not plug more than one extension cord and one power strip into a single electrical outlet. Extension cords shall be removed and stored at the end of the day. Extension cords shall not be used for permanent use. Extension cords and power strips may not plugged in series.
- Extension cords shall not be extended from one classroom to another or create a trip hazard.
- All compressed gas cylinders shall be attached with restraints to prevent from overturning.
- Do not exceed the classroom occupancy load by putting too many student or desks in the room. (20 square feet per student.)

Most classrooms safety violations can be avoided by keeping classrooms clean, neat and well organized. Do not try and store more materials than your room was designed to safely handle. Do not obstruct the existing fire safety systems that are there to protect all occupants. Do not exceed the electrical capacity of the room with plug strips and extension cords. Always look for conditions that have the potential to hurt students, staff and faculty.

In addition to the illustrated classroom violations, fire/safety violations occur outside of the classroom. For violations outside of your control notify your Site Safety Officer SBVC (909) 384-8958, CHC (909) 389-3383, or SBCCD Environmental Health and Safety at (909) 384-4070.

Do not store items in basements or under stairs unless the entire area has fire sprinklers.

When storing items in closets or workrooms, maintain in 3 foot (36") clearance around all water heaters, electrical panels, fire alarm panels, and portable fire extinguishers.

When parking vehicles on campus walkways or grounds, do not block main walkways or any fire lanes.