

SCHOOL Safety Matters

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Monthly Safety Tips

Propping Doors

Propping doors open is an all too common practice in many of our buildings. This is done for variety of reasons, usually in the name of convenience. Unfortunately, this convenience comes at a cost to safety, security, and maintenance. Self-closing doors are designed to close and lock to keep students and staff secure. They also provide a separation barrier in the event of a building fire. The practice also causes needless wear and tear on the door closing mechanism adding a maintenance cost. It is far easier to deal with a minor inconvenience than a serious safety, security, or maintenance issue.



Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. It is important that exterior lighting timer clocks get changed to ensure campuses are well lit and safe.

In this issue of School Safety Matters, we take a look at several recent incidents that have resulted in small fires in and around our campuses. Fortunately, the damage from these in most cases ranged from minor clean-up to relatively inexpensive property damage. The following are brief descriptions of these incidents:



Highland Park Middle School portable fire 2014

- A custodian found a pile of burnt matches on a school roof during a routine check, resulting in no damage.
- A damaged cord on a space heater caught fire under a desk, destroying the heater but causing no injury or further property damage.
- A stage light was set on the floor in a theater control room, causing minor singeing of the carpet.
- A house light, in the catwalk area of a theater, was set on the carpet and left on, resulting in damage to the carpet and decking beneath.
- Lighting came into contact with a stage curtain, burning small holes in the curtain.
- A slide was intentionally burned on a playground, resulting in almost \$5000 damage.
- A hot plate fire completely destroyed an outdoor concession booth and its contents. Later, small fires were intentionally set on the same campus requiring minor clean-up.
- A fire was intentionally set in a restroom, causing extensive damage and making it unusable for weeks.
- An unoccupied portable classroom caught fire and was a total loss; cause is unknown.

This is not a complete list, but each of these incidents should be viewed as a warning of a potential larger, more destructive event. The recent fires at Woodburn High School and Marysville Elementary School in Portland are two examples of what can happen if we don't take warnings such as these seriously. It is the responsibility of all of us to be vigilant for any potential fire danger and to report evidence of a fire event, no matter how small, to a fire investigator by calling non-emergency (503) 629-0111.

Any Fire. Any Size. Any time.



Please call Risk Management at ext. 4560 if we can help you with any safety question or if you have any safety tips that should be forwarded to the rest of the District.