



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of School Education Kashmir

CIRCULAR

School fire safety is of critical importance for one obvious reason: that tens or hundreds of kids are present in school and a fire, irrespective of its size can be very disastrous. As is known, most of the furniture in a classroom such as desks, chairs, and tables are made from combustible materials like wood or plastic. The chemistry laboratory is a high-fire risk zone, as it contains large quantities of flammable liquids. Mid-day meals kitchen is more vulnerable because there may be containers of LPG and other combustible materials that can easily start a fire. A fire in such a place can easily go out of control and cause large scale damage within minutes. And even worse, claim the precious lives of students and staff besides loss of property. According to the National Disaster Management Authority of India (NDMA) every school has to strictly abide by certain rules and regulations to prevent fire outbreak and ensure safety. Fire Prevention and Fire Safety measures should be part of the initial school design, and also require regular maintenance and testing.

In view of the above, it is enjoined upon all the heads of schools to follow the safety guidelines and in this regard, ensure that the following instructions are followed in letter and spirit:

- Flammable and hazardous materials sources should be limited, isolated, eliminated, or secured: This includes electrical lines and appliances, heaters and stoves, natural gas pipelines and LPG canisters, flammable or combustible liquids.
- Exit routes should be clear to facilitate safe evacuation in case of fire or other emergencies.
- Detection and alarm systems should be installed and in case these are installed, it should be ensured that these are in working condition.
- Fire extinguishers should be regularly refilled.
- Electrical systems should be maintained and operable, in compliance with fire safety design criteria.

In addition to the guidelines, here the following points need to be kept in mind:

- Fire drills must be held regularly while school is in session.
- Students with specific needs should be assigned an adult or a student buddy to assist them. The same rule applies to students in playgroups and preschools.
- Every student, teacher and other staff in school must be aware of the safety precautions and steps to follow in case of fire outbreak.
- Safety audits such as electric safety audit such as checking of the electrical system by an electrician and fire safety audit which involves checking for possible sources of fire and identifying inflammable items within the school must be done regularly.

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No: DSEK/CEW/500

Date: 09/03/2020

Copy to:

- ✓ Commissioner/ Secretary to Government School Education Department for information.
- ✓ Joint Director (North, Central, South, SE,EE,SSA) for information and necessary action.
- ✓ Chief Education Officer..... (All) for information and necessary action.
- iv. I/C Website with the instructions to upload the circular on all media channels of DSEK
- v. Circular file.