



COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Brett T. Lacey
Fire Marshal

2021/2022

Dear School Principal/Administrator:

Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) recognizes the value of partnering with our area schools to ensure the safety of students and our community. We appreciate the ongoing collaborative efforts with CSFD to maintain the progress we have all made in keeping our school campuses fire safe.

Please remember that failing to report an unwanted fire is unlawful. Regardless of evidence leading to the intent of starting a fire, a fire's magnitude, or the age(s) (minor or adult) of the person/people involved, reporting fire-related incidents is a requirement and the responsibility of principals and administrators. **In every situation and under all circumstances, mandatory fire reporting is the law!**

School fires continue to be underreported, and we are seeking your compliance in this matter. Many of these fires result from the misuse of fire by students prompting referrals to CSFD's FireFactor² educational intervention program. These referrals provide CSFD the opportunity to conduct fire-setting risk assessments on the youth involved to determine the level of risk for future fire-setting behavior. Outcomes of these assessments may result in the need for further fire safety education and, when warranted, referrals to mental/behavioral health specialists. Please continue calling 719.385.7376 or emailing Firefactor@coloradosprings.gov to report all unwanted fires.

Some common fire code violations in schools are artwork and teaching materials on fire doors and flammable items (curtains, fabric, artificial plants, etc., not treated with a flame retardant) on walls. In your role as a school principal/administrator, educate your staff on the importance of honoring the mandates of Colorado State Law, the City of Colorado Springs, and the International Fire Code. Review, reference, and make available to your employees the items accompanying this correspondence. An excuse of "I didn't know we couldn't do that," and ignoring known violations, like those listed above, rests on you.

All of the information attached to this packet is available via coloradosprings.gov/schoollink, but if you have questions or want to discuss code requirements and educational opportunities, please call the fire department's general business number (719.385.5950).

Have a healthy and fire-safe school year.

Respectfully,

Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal



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The mission of the Colorado Springs Fire Department is to provide fire, emergency and prevention services with professionalism, compassion and excellence.