



Fire Department

HEADQUARTERS

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CODE SUMMARY

GROUP E OCCUPANCIES – EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific occupancy or permit. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to Educational Buildings as defined by the **California Fire Code**. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. These requirements pertain to existing buildings. New construction may be subject to additional requirements. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (805) 681-5500.

SCOPE

Group E Occupancy defined:

The use of a building or portion thereof, by more than six or more persons at any one time for educational purposes through the 12 grade.

1. Extinguishers Required:

- A. One Class 2-A rated fire extinguisher shall be provide for each 3000 sq. ft. of ordinary hazard fuel load. Travel distance shall not exceed 75 feet. (CFC 906.3)
- B. If Class B fuel hazards are present, a Class B rated fire extinguisher shall be provided in accordance with Table 906.3(2) of the CFC. (CFC 906.3)

TYPE OF HAZARD	BASIC MINIMUM EXTINGUISHER RATING	MAXIMUM TRAVEL DISTANCE TO EXTINGUISHERS	
		(in feet)	(in meters)
<i>Light (low)</i>	<i>5B</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9.15</i>
	<i>10B</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>15.25</i>
<i>Ordinary (moderate)</i>	<i>10B</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9.15</i>
	<i>20B</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>15.25</i>
<i>Extra (high)</i>	<i>40B</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9.15</i>
	<i>80B</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>15.25</i>

- C. Fire extinguisher shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. (CFC 906.6)
- D. Fire extinguishers not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Hangers or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. (CFC 906.7) Extinguishers shall be inspected monthly by the building owner or occupant, or electronically monitored. (T19 Sec. 574.1)
- E. Extinguishers shall be subject to maintenance annually by licensed technician. (T19 Sec. 575.1)

2. Means of Egress:

- A. Egress doors in classrooms shall swing in the direction of egress travel when serving an occupant load of 50 or more. (CFC 1008.1.2)
- B. Each door in a means of egress having an occupant load of 50 or more shall be provided with panic hardware. (CFC 1008.1.10)
- C. At least two exits shall be provided from Assembly areas serving greater than 49 occupants. (CFC 1015.1)
- D. The common path of egress travel shall not exceed 75 feet. (CFC 1014.3)
- E. Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions. (CFC 1003.6)
- F. There shall be no dead end corridors more than 20 feet. (CFC 1018.4)
- G. In areas serving greater than 49 persons, means of egress, including the exit discharge, shall be illuminated when the building space is occupied. (CFC 1006.1)
- H. In areas serving greater than 49 persons, in the event of power supply failure, an emergency electrical system shall automatically illuminate aisles, stairways, corridors, and other egress components in areas that require two or more exits. (CFC 1006.3)
- I. In areas serving greater than 49 persons, exit and exit access doors shall be marked by approved exit signs readily visible from any direction of egress travel. (CFC 1011.1)
- J. In areas serving greater than 49 persons, exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated at all times; signs shall be connected to an emergency power system that provides illumination for not less than 90 minutes in case of primary power loss. (CFC 1011.5.3)
- K. In areas serving greater than 49 persons, means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes, or through rooms subject to locking. (CFC 1014.2)

3. Alarm Systems:

- A. A manual and automatic fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system shall be installed in Group E occupancies having an occupant load of 50 or more persons or containing more than one classroom. (CFC 907.2.3)
- B. The building owner shall be responsible to maintain the fire and life safety Fire systems in operable condition at all times. Service personnel shall meet the qualification requirements of NFPA 72 for maintaining, inspecting, and testing such systems. A written record shall be maintained and shall be made available to the fire code official. (CFC 907.8.5)
- C. Every person managing or in charge of any public, private or parochial school shall cause the fire alarm signal to be sounded not less than once every calendar month at the elementary and intermediate levels and not less than twice yearly at the secondary level. (T19 Sec. 3.13)

4. Housekeeping:

- A. Combustible waste containers larger than 40 gallons shall be constructed of noncombustible material or approved combustible material and provided with a lid. (CFC 304.3)
- B. Combustible waste containers larger than 1.5 cubic yards shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines. (CFC 304.3)
- C. Materials subject to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container. (CFC 304.3)
- D. Storage of combustible materials shall be orderly, with storage separated from heating devices by a distance or shielded so that ignition cannot occur. (CFC 315.3)
- E. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas or a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings. (CFC 315.3.1)
- F. Combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. (CFC 315.3.3)
- G. Electrical motors shall be maintained free from excessive accumulations of oil, dirt, waste and debris. Means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes, or through rooms subject to locking. (CFC 605.8)

5. Electrical

- A. A working space of not less than 30 inches in width, 36 inches in depth, and 78 inches in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. Storage is prohibited within the designated working space. (CFC 605.3)
- B. Multiplug adaptors, such as cube adaptors, unfused plug strips or other such devices not complying with the California Electrical Code shall be prohibited. (CFC 605.4)
- C. Extension cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor covering nor subject to physical damage. (CFC 605.4.3)
- D. Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring. (CFC 605.5)
- E. Appliance cords and extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. (CFC 605.5.3)
- F. Open junction boxes and open wiring splices shall be prohibited. Approved covers shall be provided for all switch and electrical outlet boxes. (CFC 605.6)
- G. Temporary wiring is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days; such wiring is allowed for longer periods for construction, remodeling, or repair work. (CFC 605.9)
- H. Portable electric heaters shall be plugged directly into a permanent receptacle. (CFC 605.10.2)

6. Flammable Liquids:

- A. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 5 gallons of flammable liquid indoors or 10 gallons of flammable liquid outdoors. (CFC 105.6.16)
- B. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 25 gallons of combustible liquid indoors or 60 gallons of combustible liquid outdoors. (CFC 105.6.16)
- C. Storage, use, dispensing and mixing of flammable liquids shall not exceed amounts necessary for demonstration, treatment, maintenance purposes and operation of equipment. (CFC 5704.3.4)
- D. Storage of flammable liquids shall not exceed 30 gallons of Class 1A flammable liquid or 120 gallons of Class 1B and 1C flammable liquids per control area. Storage of Combustible liquids shall not exceed 120 gallons of Class 2 combustible liquid or 330 gallons of Class 3A combustible liquid. (CFC 5704.3.4.2)

Exceptions:

- 1. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.
 - 2. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent when stored in approved storage cabinets, day boxes, gas cabinets, exhausted enclosures or listed safety cans.
 - 3. Where exception #1 and #2 both apply, increase for both exceptions shall be applied accumulatively.
- E. Quantities of flammable and combustible liquids in excess of 10 gallons used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment shall be stored in liquid storage cabinets. (CFC 5704.3.4.4)

7. Miscellaneous:

- A. An operational permit is required to operate areas of assembly. (CFC 105.6.34)
- B. An approved fire apparatus access road not less than 20 wide shall be provided for access to within 150 feet of all portions of the building. (CFC 503.1.1)
- C. Fire access roads shall be marked with approved signs or markings that state "NO PARKING FIRE LANE". Marking shall be maintained in clean, legible condition and repaired when necessary. (CFC 503.3)
- D. Fire access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. (CFC 503.4)
- E. Exterior doors and their function cannot be eliminated without approval. If approved, and door retains the appearance as a functional, door shall be posted on the exterior "THIS DOOR BLOCKED". (CFC 504.2)
- F. All buildings shall have approved address numbers or building numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible from the street or road fronting the property. (CFC 505.1)
- G. Natural cut trees shall not be displayed except in areas protected by an approved sprinkler system. (CFC 806.1.1)
- H. Commercial cooking equipment that produces grease laden vapors shall be provided with an automatic fire extinguishing system listed and labeled for its intended use. (CFC 904.11)
- I. In Assembly areas, occupant loads shall be posted in a conspicuous place, near the main exit. (CFC 1004.3)

- J. All drapes, hangings, curtains and other decorative material, including Christmas trees that increase the fire and panic hazard shall be made from a nonflammable material or shall be treated and maintained in a flame retardant condition with a flame-retardant solution approved by the State Fire Marshal. (T19 Sec. 3.08)