Fire and Electrical Housekeeping – Schools Fatality File

Electrical Fire at Westbrook High School

In July, a fire broke out on the third floor of Westbrook High School in Maine, originating from a window air conditioner that was improperly connected to an extension cord. The blaze caused significant damage, leading to the temporary closure of the school and a shift to remote learning for students.

Investigations revealed that the use of an extension cord not rated for the air conditioner’s power load led to overheating and ignition. This incident underscores the critical importance of proper fire and electrical housekeeping in schools, including the correct use of electrical equipment and adherence to safety protocols.

In response, the school district conducted comprehensive inspections of all schools to ensure compliance with electrical safety standards. This tragedy serves as a stark reminder that neglecting basic electrical safety measures can have severe consequences, emphasizing the need for ongoing vigilance and maintenance in educational facilities.

Source: Wgme.com