Fire and Electrical Housekeeping – Schools Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Cluttered Spaces Fuel Fires:** Accumulated papers, books, or flammable materials in classrooms and storage areas increase fire risk by providing fuel and obstructing firefighting efforts.
2. **Blocked Fire Exits:** Furniture, supplies, or equipment obstructing exits or fire extinguishers delays evacuation and emergency response, endangering students and staff.
3. **Improper Cord Management:** Damaged or frayed electrical cords, or cords placed under rugs or in walkways, create tripping hazards and increase the risk of electrical shocks or fires.
4. **Lack of Regular Inspections:** Failure to routinely inspect electrical systems, outlets, and fire safety equipment (e.g., smoke alarms, sprinklers) allows undetected hazards to persist in schools.
5. **Inadequate Training:** Staff and students often lack training on fire and electrical safety practices, such as recognizing overloaded circuits or maintaining clear pathways, increasing hazard risks.
6. **Flammable Material Storage:** Improper storage of flammable items, like art supplies or cleaning chemicals, near heat sources or electrical equipment heightens the risk of ignition.

STATS

- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported in 2020 that schools experienced an average of 3,230 structure fires annually, with 20% linked to improper storage of

flammable materials or electrical malfunctions.

- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 10% of school-related safety incidents in British Columbia involved electrical hazards, such as overloaded outlets or faulty wiring, often due to poor housekeeping.
- A 2021 OSHA inspection report found that 25% of school safety violations involved fire hazards, including cluttered storage areas and blocked fire exits.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2023 that schools implementing fire and electrical housekeeping protocols reduced fire-related incidents by up to 15%.
- A 2022 Journal of School Safety study indicated that 30% of school electrical incidents were caused by overloaded power strips or extension cords, preventable with proper housekeeping.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey found that 22% of school administrators reported fire safety concerns due to cluttered classrooms or improper electrical setups.