

Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

For full complete information refer to the [Ontario Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997](#)

Subsection	Wording from the Fire Code
2.1.2.2	Activities that create a hazard and that are not allowed for in the original design shall not be carried out in a building unless approved provisions are made to control the hazard.
2.2.3.1	Where closures are damaged so as to affect the integrity of their fire-protection rating, the damaged closures shall be repaired so that the integrity of the closures is maintained.
2.2.3.3	Closures in fire separations shall not be obstructed, blocked, wedged open, or altered in any way that would prevent the intended operation of the closure
2.2.3.4	Doors in fire separations shall be inspected monthly.
2.2.3.8	Door openings and the surrounding area shall be kept clear of everything that would be likely to obstruct or interfere with the free operation of the door.
2.3.1.1(1)	Where a building is refurbished or redecorated, interior finish materials shall be in conformance with the building code.
2.3.3.2 (1)	Drapes, curtains, netting, and other similar or decorative materials, including textiles and films used in buildings , shall meet the requirements of CAN/ULC-S109, “Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films”, when these materials are used in any... (b) lobby or exit, (c) access to exit in assembly occupancies, and assembly occupancies with an occupant load of more than 100 persons,
2.3.2.2	Flame retardant treatments shall be renewed as often as required to ensure that the material will pass the match flame test in NFPA 705, “Recommended Practice for a Field Flame Test for Textiles and Films”.
2.4.1.1 (1)	Combustible waste materials in and around buildings shall not be permitted to accumulate in quantities or locations that will constitute a fire hazard.
2.4.1.1 (2)	Combustible materials, other than those for which the location, room or space is designed, shall not be permitted to accumulate in any part of an elevator shaft, ventilation shaft, means of egress, service room or service space.
2.4.1.1 (3)	Horizontal concealed spaces, such as crawl spaces and ceiling spaces, shall not be used for the storage of combustible materials.
2.4.1.1 (4)	Combustible materials shall not be stored on a roof or adjacent to any building so as to create a fire hazard to the building or its occupants.
2.4.1.1 (5)	Abandoned optical fibre cables and electrical wires and cables, with combustible insulation, jackets, or sheaths, and non-metallic raceways shall be removed from a plenum unless a) they are permanently closed by the structure or finish of the building, b) their removal would disturb the structure or finish of the building, or c) their removal could affect the performance of cables in use
2.4.1.1 (6)	Outdoor storage receptacles, such as dumpsters, used for combustible materials shall be located so that they do not create a fire hazard to buildings.
2.4.1.3 (1)	Materials subject to spontaneous ignition, such as greasy or oily rags, shall be deposited in a receptacle conforming to Sentence (3) or be removed from the premises.
2.4.1.3 (3)	A receptacle required in Sentences (1)... shall a) be constructed of non-combustible materials,



Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

	<p>b) have a close-fitting, self-closing metal cover,</p> <p>c) if the flooring material upon which it is placed is combustible, have a flanged bottom or legs not less than 50 mm high, and</p> <p>d) not be placed closer than 1 m to combustible materials, except as permitted in Clause (c).</p>
2.4.1.5	Lint traps in laundry equipment shall be cleaned to prevent the accumulation of lint that creates an undue fire hazard.
2.4.1.6	Flammable liquid or combustible liquid spills in a building shall be removed immediately with an absorbent material that will not increase the hazard and shall be disposed of in a safe manner.
2.4.4.3	Devices having open flames shall be securely supported in non-combustible holders and located or protected so as to prevent accidental contact of the flame with combustible materials.
2.4.6.1	Temporary electrical wiring shall not be used where it presents a fire hazard.
2.5.1.2 (1)	Fire access routes and access panels or windows provided to facilitate access for fire-fighting operations shall not be obstructed by vehicles, gates, fences, building materials, vegetation, signs or any other form of obstruction.
2.5.1.2 (2)	Fire department sprinkler and standpipe connections shall be clearly identified and maintained free of obstructions for use at all times
2.5.1.3	Fire access routes shall be maintained so as to be immediately ready for use at all times by fire department vehicles.
2.5.1.4	Approved signs shall be displayed to indicate fire access routes.
2.6.1.3	Hoods, ducts and filters subject to accumulations of combustible deposits shall be checked at intervals not greater than seven days, and shall be cleaned if the accumulation of such deposits creates a fire hazard.
2.6.1.12 (1)	Commercial cooking equipment shall be provided with exhaust and fire protection systems in conformance with NFPA 96, "Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations".
2.6.1.13	Commercial cooking equipment exhaust and fire protection systems shall be maintained in conformance with NFPA 96, "Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations".
2.6.4.1	Electrical equipment vaults shall not be used for storage purposes.
2.6.4.2	Electrical equipment vaults shall be kept locked so that unauthorized persons will not have access to them.
2.7.1.4 (1)	The number of persons occupying a room or floor space in an assembly occupancy shall not exceed the occupant load for the intended use...
2.7.1.7 (1)	Means of egress shall be maintained in good repair and free of obstructions.
2.7.1.7 (2)	Lighting provided for illumination in exits and access to exits, including corridors used by the public, shall be maintained.
2.7.1.8 (1)	Exterior passageways, exterior stairways and fire escapes in occupied buildings shall be maintained in good repair and operational and kept free of snow and ice accumulations.
2.7.2.1 (1)	Every exit door shall be designed and installed so that, when the latch is released, the door will open in the direction of exit travel under a force of not more than 90 N, applied at the knob or other latch releasing device.
2.7.3.1	Required exit signs shall be clearly visible and maintained in a clean and legible condition.
2.7.3.2	Exit signs shall be illuminated, externally or internally, as appropriate for each sign's design, while the building is occupied.



Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

2.7.3.3 (1)	Pilot lights on emergency lighting unit equipment shall be checked monthly for operation.
2.7.3.3 (3)	Emergency lighting unit equipment shall be tested a) monthly to ensure that the emergency lights will function upon failure of the primary power supply, and b) annually to ensure that the unit will provide emergency lighting for a duration equal to the design criteria under simulated power failure conditions.
2.8.2.1 (1)	A fire safety plan shall include a) the emergency procedures to be used in case of fire, including i) sounding the fire alarm, (ii) notifying the fire department, (iii) instructing occupants on procedures to be followed when the fire alarm sounds, (iv) evacuating occupants, including special provisions for persons requiring assistance, (v) the procedures for use of elevators, and (vi) confining, controlling and extinguishing the fire, b) the appointment and organization of designated supervisory staff to carry out fire safety duties, c) the training of supervisory staff and instruction of other occupants in their responsibilities for fire safety, d) documents, including diagrams, showing the type, location and operation of the building fire emergency systems. e) the holding of fire drills, f) the control of fire hazards in the building, g) the maintenance of building facilities provided for the safety of occupants, and h) the provision of alternative measures for the safety of occupants during any shutdown of fire protection equipment and systems or part thereof.
2.8.2.1 (3)	The fire safety plan shall be kept in the building in an approved location.
2.8.2.1 (4)	The fire safety plan shall be reviewed as often as necessary, but at intervals not greater than 12 months, to ensure that it takes account of changes in the use and other characteristics of the building
2.8.3.1 (1)	The procedure for conducting fire drills described in Clause 2.8.2.1.(1)(e) shall be included in the fire safety plan, taking into consideration a) the building occupancy and its fire hazards, b) the safety features provided in the building, c) the desirable degree of participation of occupants other than supervisory staff, d) the number and degree of experience of participating supervisory staff, and e) the testing and operation of the emergency systems installed in buildings within the scope of Subsection 3.2.6. of Division B of the Building Code.
2.8.3.1 (2)	The fire drill procedures required in Sentence (1) shall be prepared in consultation with the Chief Fire Official.
2.8.3.2 (1)	Fire drills as described in Sentence 2.8.3.1.(1) shall be held at least once during each 12-month period for the supervisory staff, except that b) in schools attended by children, total evacuation fire drills shall be held three times in each of the fall and spring school terms,
2.10.2.1	<i>Day-Care Centres</i> , Combustible artwork and teaching materials that are attached to walls shall not exceed 20% of the area of the walls.
2.10.2.2	<i>Day-Care Centres</i> , Waste receptacles shall be made of non combustible materials.



Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

2.10.2.3	<i>Day-Care Centres</i> , Flammable liquids and combustible liquids shall be stored in conformance with Part 4 and in areas inaccessible to children
3.2.1.4	Loose shavings and sawdust shall be swept up at frequent intervals and deposited in receptacles described in Sentence 2.4.1.3.(3).
3.2.1.7	The storage and handling of flammable liquids and combustible liquids shall be in conformance with Part 4
3.3.2.3 (1)	<i>Wood Storage</i> , The clearance between sprinkler head deflectors and the tops of piles shall not be less than 457 mm.
3.3.2.3 (2)	<i>Wood Storage</i> , Where the storage piles are above the lower chords of floor or roof structural framing members, a horizontal clear space of at least 300 mm shall be maintained between the storage and the structural members.
4.1.5.9 (1)	...Class 1 (gasoline) liquids shall not be stored, handled or used in basements or pits.
4.1.5.9 (3)	Up to 5 L of Class I liquids may be stored in basements, provided it is stored in safety containers conforming to ULC/ORD-C30, "Safety Containers".
4.1.6.3	Maintenance and operating procedures shall be established to prevent the escape of flammable liquids or combustible liquids to areas where they could create a fire or explosion hazard.
4.1.7.1	Where flammable liquids or combustible liquids are processed, handled, stored, dispensed or used within rooms or enclosed spaces, ventilation shall conform to this Part and the Building Code.
4.1.7.4	Except as provided in Article 4.1.7.6., the exhaust air outlet from a mechanical ventilation system required in Article 4.1.7.2. shall be a) located outdoors, not less than 3 m from any building opening, and b) arranged so that the exhaust air does not discharge toward any unprotected opening within 7.5 m of the discharge point.
4.1.7.5 (1)	Where make-up air for a mechanical ventilation system is taken from within the building, the opening into the room or enclosed space shall be provided with a fire damper.
4.1.7.5 (2)	Make-up air for a natural or mechanical ventilation system shall be taken from a point remote from any exhaust air discharge described in Article 4.1.7.4.
4.1.7.6	Where a mechanical ventilation system is installed in conformance with Article 4.1.7.2., and where exhaust air is recirculated, a fail-safe vapour detection and alarm system shall be provided (a) to continuously monitor the flammable vapour concentration in the exhaust air, and (b) if the vapour concentration in Clause (a) exceeds 25% of the lower explosive limit of the vapour, to (i) sound an alarm in an attended area, (ii) stop the recirculation of air, and (iii) redirect the exhaust air to an outdoor location.
4.1.7.8	All components of the ventilation system shall be kept free of obstructions that may interfere with its operation.
4.1.8.1 (1)	...flammable liquids and combustible liquids shall be kept in containers conforming to Subsection 4.2.3. or in storage tanks conforming to Subsection 4.3.1.
4.1.8.1 (2)	Containers and storage tanks for flammable liquids or combustible liquids shall be kept closed when not in use.
4.1.8.1 (3)	Containers and storage tanks shall not be filled beyond their safe filling level.



Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

4.2.2.1	Flammable liquids or combustible liquids shall not be stored in or adjacent to exits, including outdoors, elevators or principal routes that provide access to exits.
4.2.3.1	... containers and portable tanks for flammable liquids or combustible liquids shall be built in conformance with b) CSA-B376, “Portable Containers for Gasoline and Other Petroleum Fuels”, d) ULC/ORD-C30, “Safety Containers”
4.2.3.2	containers for flammable liquids or combustible liquids shall be distinctly marked or labelled in easily legible type which is in contrast to any other printed matter on the label with a warning to indicate that (a) the material in the container is flammable, (b) it should be kept away from heat, sparks and open flames, and (c) it should be kept closed when not in use.
4.2.6.1	This Subsection applies to the storage, handling and use of flammable liquids and combustible liquids in business and personal services occupancies and care or detention occupancies and shall include non-residential schools, universities and colleges.
4.2.6.2	Except as permitted in Article 4.2.6.3., flammable liquids and combustible liquids shall be kept in closed containers and stored (a) in cabinets conforming to Subsection 4.2.10., except that the total quantity of flammable liquids and combustible liquids stored in such cabinets shall not exceed the quantity permitted for one cabinet, or (b) in a room having no openings communicating directly with the public portions of the building and conforming to Subsection 4.2.9.
4.2.6.3 (1)	Except as provided in Sentence (2), the storage of flammable liquids and combustible liquids outside of a cabinet or room required in Article 4.2.6.2. is permitted, provided such storage does not exceed a) 10 L, including not more than 5 L of Class I liquid, in a single room, or b) 250 L, including not more than 60 L of Class II liquid, or 10 L of Class I liquid, in a single fire compartment having at least a 45 min fire separation.
4.2.6.3 (2)	In automotive shop or industrial arts areas of an educational facility, storage of up to 75 L of flammable liquids and combustible liquids, including not more than 25 L of Class I liquid, shall be permitted outside of a cabinet or room as specified in Article 4.2.6.2.
5.1.2.1	Hazardous materials, processes and operations shall be located and the premises maintained so that the means of egress will not be obstructed in any manner that would interfere with evacuation of the floor area in the event of a fire.
5.1.3.1	Electrical installations shall conform to the Electrical Safety Code...
5.6.1.2 (1)	Cylinders containing compressed gas shall be protected against mechanical damage.
5.6.1.2 (2)	Cylinders containing compressed gas shall be stored to hold them securely in place a) on racks, b) by nesting, or c) by approved methods or devices.
5.6.1.3	Except when being transported, acetylene cylinders shall be kept in an upright position.
5.6.1.4	Cylinders containing compressed gas which are in storage shall be protected against valve damage.
5.6.1.5	Cylinders containing compressed gas shall be stored in areas where the ambient air temperature does not exceed 52°C.



Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

5.6.1.6 (1)	Where cylinders containing compressed gas are stored indoors, the storage areas or rooms shall be a) dry, and b) ventilated in accordance with Sentence 5.6.2.4.(4).
5.10.1.2 (1)	Building and machinery surfaces shall be kept clean of accumulations of combustible dusts using cleaning equipment that a) is made of materials that will not create electrostatic charges or sparks, b) is electrically conductive and bonded to ground, and c) except as permitted in Sentence (3), removes the dust to a safe location by vacuum
5.17.1.1	The protection of persons and property from injury or damage by fire or other causes arising from electric and gas welding and cutting equipment or its installation, operation and maintenance shall conform to CSA-W117.2, “Code for Safety in Welding and Cutting”, and to the requirements in this Section.
5.17.2.3	Cylinders stored inside buildings shall conform to the requirements in Section 5.6
5.17.2.4	Gas fuel cylinders, whether full or empty, whose valves are not in a recessed or protected location shall have their caps in place and their valves tightly closed when not in actual use.
5.17.2.6 (1)	Welding equipment shall be inspected daily or prior to use for defects by personnel in charge of the equipment.
5.17.2.6 (2)	Welding and cutting equipment shall be tested monthly for leaks with a leak test solution.
5.17.2.6 (3)	Leaks or defects found in welding and cutting equipment shall be repaired prior to use.
5.17.3.1 (1)	Welding and cutting operations in buildings shall be carried out in areas that a) are free of combustible and flammable contents, and b) have walls, ceilings and floors of non-combustible construction or that are lined with non-combustible materials.
5.17.3.3 (1)	Welding and cutting shall not be performed on containers, equipment, or piping containing flammable liquids, combustible liquids or flammable gases unless a) they have been cleaned and tested with a listed gas detector, such as one conforming to CSA C22.2 No. 152, “Combustible Gas Detection Instruments”, to ascertain that they are free of explosive vapours, or b) safety measures are taken in conformance with good engineering practice.
5.17.3.3 (2)	Welding or cutting operations shall not be undertaken on a totally enclosed container.
6.2.1.2	Portable extinguishers shall be kept operable and fully charged.
6.2.1.3 (1)	Portable extinguishers shall be located so that they are easily seen and shall be accessible at all times...
6.2.1.3 (2)	A lockable, break-front glazed cabinet may be used for security purposes to store portable extinguishers and where portable extinguishers are located in a fire hose cabinet, an approved lockable, scored glass break-front cabinet may be used.
6.2.1.5	The location of portable extinguishers shall be prominently indicated by signs or markings in large floor areas and in locations where visual obstructions cannot be avoided.
6.2.2.1	Portable extinguishers shall be rated and identified in conformance with CAN/ULC-S508, “Standard for the Rating and Fire Testing of Fire Extinguishers”.
6.2.4.1 (1)	Portable extinguishers shall be provided to protect every building, each hazardous occupancy inside the building and each hazardous process or operation located outside.
6.2.4.2	Portable extinguishers with a gross weight greater than 18 kg shall be installed so that the top of the

Quick Reference to Sections from the Ontario Fire Code Applicable to Education

	extinguisher is not more than 1.1 m above the floor when the extinguisher is not equipped with wheels.
6.2.4.3	Portable extinguishers having a gross weight of 18 kg or less shall be installed so that the top of the extinguisher is not more than 1.5 m above the floor
6.2.5.1	Where the quantity of combustible material present is such that fires of small size may be expected, such as in offices, schoolrooms, churches, assembly halls and telephone exchanges, the occupancy shall be graded as light hazard.
6.2.6.3	Portable extinguishers that are provided to protect a hazardous occupancy shall be those required in this Section for fighting Class A fires, Class B fires, Class C fires or Class D fires.
6.2.6.6	Up to one half of the number of portable extinguishers required in Table 6.2.6.A. may be replaced by hose stations.
6.2.6.9 (1)	Portable extinguishers for Class B fires shall be provided for flammable liquid and combustible liquid hazards when flammable liquids or combustible liquids are stored in open containers to a depth greater than 6 mm.
6.2.6.9 (3)	The distance travelled to reach a portable extinguisher required by Sentence (1) shall not exceed 15 m.
6.2.6.13	Portable extinguishers suitable for Class C fires shall be provided in or near service rooms containing electrical equipment.
6.2.6.16 (1)	For fires involving combustible metals, extinguishers or extinguishing agents with Class D fire ratings suitable for the combustible metal shall be provided.
6.2.6.16 (2)	Extinguishing equipment shall be located not more than 25 m from the Class D fire hazard.
6.2.7.2	Portable extinguishers shall be inspected monthly.
6.2.7.4 (1)	Each portable extinguisher shall have a tag securely attached to it showing the maintenance or recharge date, the servicing agency and the signature of the person who performed the service
6.3.1.1	Access to fire alarm and voice communication system components requiring inspection or servicing shall be kept unobstructed
6.3.1.8	Repair, replacement and alterations of fire alarm system components shall be in accordance with CAN/ULC-S524, "Standard for the Installation of Fire Alarm Systems".
6.3.2.2 (1)	... a fire alarm system, with or without voice communication capability, shall be inspected and tested in conformance with CAN/ULC-S536, "Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems".
6.4.1.2	Standpipe and hose systems shall be maintained in operating condition
6.5.1.1 (1)	Repair, replacement and alterations of sprinkler system components shall be in accordance with NFPA 13, "Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems".
6.6.1.1	Private and public water supplies for fire protection installations shall be maintained to provide the required flow under fire conditions.
6.7.1.1	...emergency power systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained in conformance with CSA-C282, "Emergency Electrical Power Supply for Buildings".
6.7.1.4	The amount of fuel stored and connected to the emergency power system shall be sufficient to operate the engine for at least 2 h.
6.7.1.5 (1)	Liquid fuel storage tanks shall be drained and refilled with fresh fuel at intervals not greater than 12 months.

