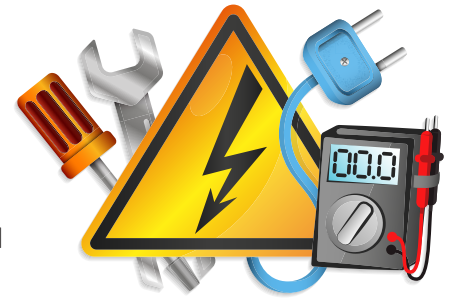


Electrical Safety

During a recent inspection of classrooms, there have been instances where electrical safety has been a serious issue and it continues to escalate. Without awareness and compliance, the potential for danger to life and property is high. There is a responsibility to ensure that our buildings are safe for everyone who works, studies, and plays.



Some of our older schools are not built to withstand the drastic change of standard equipment for the modern needs of today's educators. This means fewer plugs and an older electrical wiring infrastructure for our computers, charging stations, and smart boards. Individually, these items consume small amount of electricity but on a cumulative basis, the extra power can be significant and this ultimately increases the risk of a fire to keep up with the demand.

Some helpful risk management tips are:

- ensure all electrical work is completed by qualified person in compliance with Manitoba electrical code.
- regular inspection of electrical components and panels.
- small appliances should not be permitted in classrooms (outside curricular requirements: see Risk Management Bulletin February 15, 2013).
- restrict the use of extension cords to temporary use only (unplug at the end of the day).
- restrict the use of portable space heaters and never use unattended.
- do not allow the use of inexpensive power bars and restrict the amount of amperage draw.



Space heater



Fan in computer classroom



Inexpensive power bar



Extension cord fire - band room

Since 2004, we have paid out \$1,976,924.80 in electrical claims alone, which could have been prevented.

For more information, please contact Darren Thomas at dthomas@mbschoolboards.ca or 204-594-5164