

BACK TO SCHOOL



Our office inspected 3,288 school buildings from September 1, 2014 to May 1, 2015. These inspections occurred in K-12th grade facilities.

Another school year is quickly approaching and that means classrooms will be filled with eager students ready to learn!

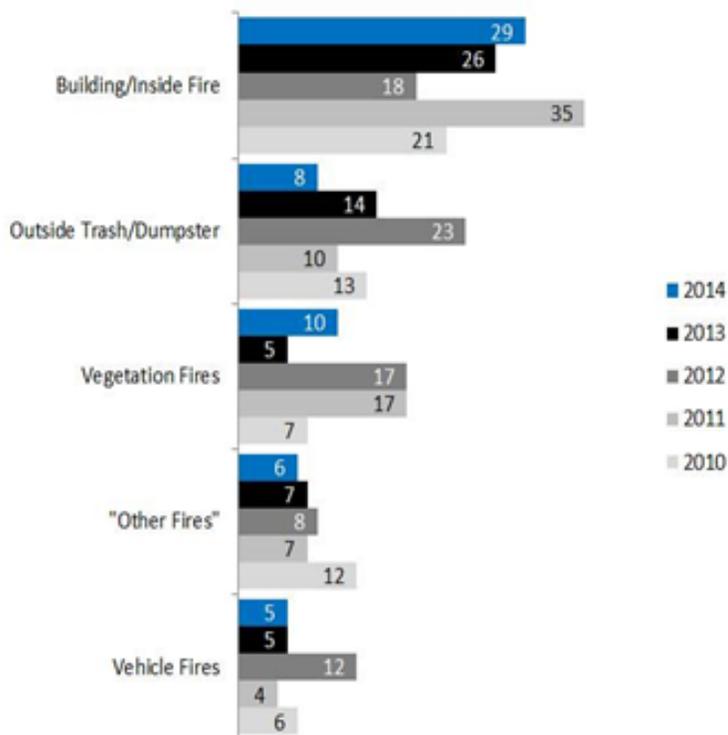
It is important that these classrooms and buildings provide a safe haven for our Kansas kids. But the learning doesn't start there. We have to educate ourselves about the fire risks in our schools.

Let's take a look at the past five years of fire history in our Kansas K-12 schools.

While fires in and on school grounds do happen, effective inspection procedures can assist with oversights and the demands of being code compliant.

(Data provided from Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System)

Fires by type during the school year



Violations

The most cited violation throughout the year was for extension cords and power strip usage. Over **300** of these violations were found in school buildings across the state.

Some examples were extension cords being used for permanent wiring, placed under carpet, frayed and cracked. Power strips were found daisy chained, overloaded and not mounted properly.

Waivers

For the school year 22 waivers were issued for violations. Almost all of those have been corrected as of now.

These waivers consisted of hood suppression systems, sprinkler head locations and fusible link dampers. More than half of those violations consisted of fire alarm systems.

Antiquated Fire Alarm Systems

While inspections were taking place it was found that 31 schools had antiquated fire alarm systems in their buildings.

All of these facilities had waivers issued to them for the replacement or update of their systems.

Memorandum of Understanding

A memorandum of understanding is made between our office and Local Jurisdiction in first and second class cities for the inspections of schools, preschools, child care centers, assisted livings, residential board and care, hospitals and jail and detention centers.

The purpose of the MOU is to ensure that annual inspections of buildings located within a local jurisdiction for which our office is obligated to perform by statute, regulation or contract are conducted by a qualified and competent staff member of an organized fire department.

Our office currently holds 50 MOU's with local jurisdictions across the state.

Have a fun and safe school year!