



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL

INSPECTIONS

406.003 DISPLAY OF UNTREATED MATERIALS IN GROUP E AND I4 OCCUPANCIES; AND SIMILAR AREAS PROVIDING CARE DURING RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS

EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 2005

SCOPE

This policy clarifies the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) requirements for display of untreated artwork and teaching materials within the City of Fresno and contract service areas.

PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide direction to schools, daycares and places of worship having rooms providing care during religious functions regarding the display of artwork and teaching materials in corridors and classrooms.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the *California Fire Code (CFC)*, the fire code official has the authority to formulate policies they deem necessary based upon local conditions related to the display of artwork and teaching materials.

The display of untreated decorative paper at school sites and daycare facilities has been a fire and life safety concern for many years. The use of untreated decorative materials such as paper, plastic, fabric and other materials attached to, or hanging from, walls and ceilings in classrooms and other areas is prohibited in both *California Code of Regulations Title 19* and the *CFC*.

Displaying untreated materials is limited due to their potential for increasing fire spread and toxic smoke production. Allowable materials (paper, fabric) shall be purchased already flame retardant treated with a California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) approved flame retardant treatment or shall be treated with a CSFM approved flame retardant treatment. Plastic materials cannot be flame retardant treated and are prohibited.

REQUIREMENTS

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's diverse service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined that the display of individual student's artwork and teaching materials shall be allowed; however, they are limited to the following criteria:

1. Individual groupings must not exceed 16 square feet in area.
2. A minimum of four feet clearance shall be provided between individual groupings.
3. The aggregate coverage of all individual groupings shall not exceed 20% of the gross area of any single wall.

CROSS REFERENCES

California Code of Regulations, Title 19
California Fire Code