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**FIRE FACT NO. 003 CHECKLIST(s) : 06**  
**TITLE : ZERO TOLERANCE VIOLATIONS IN SCHOOLS**  
**CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 06-16, 18, 42**  
**REFERENCE(s) : 91-101/5-2.1.5.5, 91-101/31-1.3 & 31-1.3.6**  
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For several years now, fire prevention inspectors have used a standard set of criteria when inspecting schools. This set of criteria has remained consistent and is readily published by the Kansas State Fire Marshal. When items are found during inspections that do not meet the criteria found in the KSFM checklists, they are considered distinctly hazardous. The following three distinct hazards present an imminent threat to school building occupants and are not tolerated.

- 1) Exit doors, equipped with panic hardware, that are chained and/or padlocked closed. (See Fire Fact 014 – Locking Arrangements.)
- 2) The fire alarm system is impaired and no work is in progress to restore it to an operable condition.
- 3) An existing automatic sprinkler system is impaired and no work is in progress to restore it to an operable condition.

**If any of these three conditions are found, they must be corrected IMMEDIATELY.**

These conditions pose a very real threat to children’s lives. Despite efforts to educate administrators, architects, engineers, and construction supervisors, these hazards are still found during routine inspections. The KSFM will take whatever measures are necessary in order to comply with K.S.A. 31-144.

### **Exiting During Construction**

We recognize that assuring safe exiting during construction can be challenging. It may be necessary to consult a licensed fire protection engineer or other professional to find solutions. Wherever exiting is inadequate, the state fire marshal’s office will take all necessary steps to protect the lives of school children. This may even include the immediate evacuation of the building. In this case, buildings may remain unusable for classes until the problem is corrected and appropriate planning for continuous safe exiting is shown.

