

## **2.9 HOME ECONOMICS SAFETY**

### **Catastrophic Risks**

Fire is the most common catastrophe associated with home economics activities. Potential fire hazards include ovens, stoves, deep fryers and other cooking equipment, irons and small appliances.

### **Common Hazards**

Frequently reported accidents in home economics classrooms include:

- ?? Burns from cooking equipment and irons
- ?? Electrical shock from appliances
- ?? Slips/falls on spilled foods and liquids
- ?? Cuts from broken glassware, jars and other containers
- ?? Punctures from sewing machine needles and pins

### **Accident Prevention**

To minimize the potential for accidents in home economics classrooms, the following procedures should be instituted:

- ?? All students and staff should review the "Home Economics Safety Rules" provided in this chapter. Each member of the staff should sign the rules. The signed rules should be forwarded to the School Personnel Office.
- ?? Formal monthly inspections should be completed utilizing a checklist developed by the home economics staff. A sample checklist is provided in this chapter to assist in this process. Completed inspection checklists should be maintained by the instructor for a period of three years.

# **HOME ECONOMICS SAFETY RULES**

## **(Students & Teachers)**

### **Cooking and Food Preparation**

1. Always cut with an appropriate knife and away from your body.
2. Always use potholders when handling hot containers.
3. Immediately wipe up spills. Inform the instructor of any large spill and restrict area until it is cleaned up.
4. Do not operate or connect electrical equipment when hands are wet or when standing on a wet floor.
5. Know the location of and how to use fire extinguishers. Be aware of at least two means of egress from the building.
6. Always turn pan handles to the back or side of the range to prevent spills when cooking on a range.
7. Never leave an operating stove unattended.
8. Do not place flammable materials on or near stove tops.
9. Disconnect appliances by pulling out the plug properly. Do not jerk the cord. Immediately report any torn, cut or frayed cords to the instructor.

### **Sewing**

1. Do not talk to or distract others when operating a sewing machine.
2. Always turn the iron off when not in use.
3. Only iron on a flameproof ironing board cover. Remove anything not to be ironed from the board prior to using it.
4. Disconnect irons and other appliances by pulling out the plug properly. Do not jerk the cord. Immediately report any torn, cut or frayed cords to the instructor.

### **General**

1. No horseplay or misuse of equipment will be tolerated.

## HOME ECONOMICS SAFETY INSPECTION (sample)

School \_\_\_\_\_

- |     |  |     |    |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| 1.  | Are potholders available and used for the handling of hot containers?  | Yes | No |
| 2.  | Are floors free of spilled liquids, foods, and foreign objects?  | Yes | No |
| 3.  | Are ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) installed in all electrical outlets around wet areas (sinks, etc.)? | Yes | No |
| 4.  | Are fire extinguishers located in appropriate areas of the classroom?  | Yes | No |
| 5.  | Have all students and staff been instructed in fire and evacuation plan procedures?                                |     |    |
| 6.  | Are all flammable materials stored away from stovetops?  | Yes | No |
| 7.  | Are all electrical cords unfrayed and in good condition?   | Yes | No |
| 8.  | Are all ironing board covers flameproof?   | Yes | No |
| 9.  | Is all silver, glass and cookware free of sharp and rough edges and in good condition?                             | Yes | No |
| 10. | Are step stools provided and in good condition to assist students/staff in reaching high places?                   | Yes | No |
| 11. | Have all students/staff reviewed the "Home Economics Safety Rules"?  | Yes | No |