



Fire Safety on the Job

Fires and explosions can cause deaths and serious injuries. Most workplace fires are caused by poor judgment, human error, ignorance or failure to follow instructions.

Fire Hazards

Most fires are caused by overlooked hazards, including:

- Open flames from improperly located or protected burners, torches, dryers and cooking devices
- Flammable liquids and gases in open or poorly sealed containers
- Smoking in restricted areas or careless disposal of ashes, butts and matches
- Electrical equipment or wiring in need of repair or repaired improperly
- Portable heaters or gas furnaces placed too close to combustibles, poorly vented, or left on by mistake
- Spontaneous combustion due to slow buildup of heat in piles of trash, oily rags or damp waste

Fire Prevention

- Ensure that equipment is operating properly.
- Inspect equipment daily for friction problems and electrical faults.
- Use proper disposal methods for flammable waste.
- Keep the work area tidy.
- Handle flammable liquids with extreme care. These include gasoline, kerosene, propane, alcohol and many industrial acids.

Correct Hazards As You See Them

Always report unsafe conditions. If you are qualified and authorized to fix the hazard, take action to remedy the problem. Unsafe conditions include dirty machinery, clogged flues or pipes, damaged wires or power cords, overloaded circuits and the following:

- Poor connections or shorting wires
- Lack of fire-fighting equipment
- Unprotected flammables
- Poor ventilation

Know What to Do In Case of Fire

- **Don't panic.** Learn the location of alarm boxes, how to use them and sound the alarm.
- **Evacuate the area.** Know your posted fire escape plan. Establish alternate escape routes and meeting places. Use stairs, not elevators.

Extinguisher Use

Be familiar with the extinguisher in your workplace. Most extinguishers can be used with these steps, called PASS:

- **Pull** the pin at the top of the cylinder. This unlocks the operating lever.
- **Aim** the hose or nozzle at the base of the fire.
- **Squeeze** the lever to discharge the agent that will extinguish the fire.
- **Sweep** from side to side, aiming at the base of the fire until the fire goes out.

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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