

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention Intro

Which is better: Fire prevention or fire protection? While it is necessary to have a plan in place for a potential fire, preventing one from occurring is the best approach.

Prevention Tips

1. Practice good housekeeping. Remove flammables within a 35' radius of hot work.
2. Place oily rags in a covered metal container and regularly dispose of this waste.
3. Maintain machinery to prevent overheating and friction sparks.
4. Report electrical hazards. Many fires start in faulty wiring and malfunctioning electrical equipment. Never attempt electric repairs unless you are a qualified electrical worker.
5. Use and store chemicals safely. Read the label and the SDS to determine flammability hazards. Provide adequate ventilation when using and storing these substances.
6. Use all precautions to prevent ignition in potentially explosive atmospheres such as those containing flammable liquid vapors or fine particles. Use non-sparking tools, and control static electricity as required.
7. Smoke only in designated areas and extinguish smoking materials safely. Never smoke in chemical storage areas.
8. Never block sprinklers, firefighting equipment, or emergency exits.
9. Post emergency telephone numbers as well as the company address in your station for quick access if a fire were to start in your work area.
10. Place a suitable fire extinguisher at about 10' < 20' from any hot work area.

Protection Tips

If there is a fire in your area, remember to **RACE**:

1. **R**escue anyone in immediate danger of the fire.
2. **A**ctivate the nearest fire alarm pull station and call 911.
3. **C**onfine the fire by closing doors to the fire (do not lock).
4. **E**vacuate to a refuge area through fire doors or via the stairs. Never use elevators!

If the fire is in the incipient stage, remember to **PASS**:

1. **P**ull the pin – this allows you to activate the extinguisher.
2. **A**im – hold hose and point at the base of the fire.
3. **S**queeze – the trigger mechanism to release the extinguishing agent.
4. **S**weep – back and forth at the base of the fire.

The threat of fire is real and will never be completely eliminated, but there are options that can reduce the risk of fire. Effective fire safety consists of several key elements: the primary element is safe work practices relating to prevention and protection of fire hazards. Next, is the proper handling of flammable and combustible material. Then, there are safe housekeeping practices that reduce the potential for fire. Finally, there is fire suppression equipment needed on every job to extinguish fire if it ignites.

Not all fires are the same, and they are classified according to the type of fuel that is burning. If you use the wrong type of fire extinguisher on the wrong class of fire, you can actually make matters worse. It is vital to understand the four different fire classifications.

Class A (Ash)

Wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics, solid combustibles that are not metals.

Class B (Boil)

Flammable liquids and gases: gasoline, oil, grease, acetone. Any nonmetal in a liquid state.

Class C (Current)

Electrical: energized electrical equipment. If it's "plugged in," it is considered class C.

Most extinguishers have a pictograph label telling you which classifications of fire the extinguisher is designed to fight.

Applying this knowledge:

What should you do before performing hot work?

- A) Remove flammables at $\leq 35'$
- B) Place extinguisher @10'-20'
- C) Complete a Hot Work Permit
- D) All of the Above



*Thank you for your
participation as we
focus on
"Fire Prevention" !*