



Fire Safety

Quick Reference Card

Fire and Its Causes

Fire is a chemical reaction known as combustion, which requires three elements to occur. Firefighters call this trio the "**fire triangle**":



Fuel: Any burnable substance, such as wood, gasoline, or propane.

Heat: Necessary for ignition, coming from sources like sparks or sunlight.

Oxygen: Essential for combustion; removing it can extinguish fires.

Key Causes of Fire

Common fire risks and prevention strategies include:



Electrical Equipment: Avoid overloading outlets and ensure wiring is correctly installed.

Cooking: Always attend to cooking, especially when using oils.



Smoking: Properly extinguish cigarettes to prevent igniting materials.

Heating Appliances: Keep clear space around heaters and use as directed.



Chemical Reactions: Store and handle chemicals safely to avoid ignition.

Classify Fires

Fires are categorized based on their fuel source into five main classes:

Class A: Combustibles (wood/paper).
Use water/foam.

Class B: Flammable liquids (gasoline/oils).
Use dry chemical/CO2.

Class C: Electrical fires. Use non-conductive agents.

Class D: Metals (magnesium). Use dry powder.

Class K: Kitchen (oils/fats). Use Class K wet chemicals.

Electrical Safety



Electricity requires cautious handling to mitigate fire risks. Here's a concise guide to maintaining safety:

Overloading: Use one appliance per outlet; temporary extension cord use.

Cords: Check for damage; don't cover; disconnect safely.

GFCIs: Install in wet areas; test monthly.

Maintenance: Inspect systems and clean equipment to prevent overheating.

Practice Safe Housekeeping

Practicing good housekeeping, such as decluttering workspaces and regular inspections, helps prevent fires.



- ✓ Remove excess combustibles, clear exits.
- ✓ Frequently empty bins; use fire-resistant containers.
- ✓ Store flammables safely; don't block sprinklers.
- ✓ Check exits, equipment, and electrical safety.
- ✓ Maintain cleanliness, delegate cleaning tasks.

Store Flammable Materials Safely

Safely managing flammable materials is crucial for fire prevention. Here are the essential steps:

- 01** | Label and recognize flammable materials like gasoline and propane.
- 02** | Use fire-resistant containers and limit quantities in the workplace.
- 03** | Store in well-ventilated areas to reduce vapor risks.
- 04** | Keep flammables away from heat sources and potential ignition points.
- 05** | Safely dispose of flammable waste and regularly inspect storage areas for safety compliance.

Equip for Fire Safety

Ensuring fire safety requires the correct tools and knowledge for early detection and response. Here's a brief overview of essentials for fire alarms and extinguishers:

Fire Alarms



Types: Use ionization for quick flames and photoelectric for smoldering fires. Combination alarms offer the best protection.

Placement: Install throughout, avoiding false alarm-prone areas.

Maintenance: Test monthly and replace batteries and units as recommended.

Fire Extinguishers



Types: Select based on fire class (A for combustibles, B for liquids, etc.). ABC extinguishers cover most needs.

Operation: Follow P.A.S.S. (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep) for use.

Maintenance: Monthly checks and annual professional inspections are crucial.

Fire Emergency Actions

Here's a streamlined guide on evacuation planning and first aid essentials:



Evacuation Planning

A detailed and efficient plan can help save lives by providing clear instructions on how to leave the building safely.

- Ensure two exits per room for alternatives in case one is blocked. Use doors, windows, or fire escapes.
- Install visible, illuminated exit signs, and keep evacuation paths unobstructed to avoid trips during evacuation.
- Inform all employees about evacuation routes through maps, floor plans, and walkthroughs for clear exit strategies.



"Fire safety goes beyond fighting flames; it's about building a culture of preparedness."

First Aid for Fire-Related Injuries



Cool the Burn: Run cool water over the burn for to lessen pain and swelling.



Cover Burn: Use a sterile bandage or cloth to protect against infection.



Shock Treatment: Lay the person down, elevate legs to increase blood flow.



Medical Help: Seek professional advice for severe burns or smoke inhalation.

Fire Safety Laws and Regulations

OSHA and Fire Safety: OSHA enforces fire safety standards, including Standard 1910.39, which mandates:



- Prevent hazards with clean spaces and equipment upkeep.
- Keep evacuation paths clear.
- Train employees regularly on fire safety.

Local Regulations: Adhere to state and local fire codes regarding extinguishers, alarms, and sprinklers.

Consequences of Non-Compliance: Non-compliance can lead to fines, shutdowns, and legal liability after a fire.

Conduct Fire Safety Audits

Fire safety audits are critical for identifying hazards and ensuring safety compliance.



Simplified steps include:

- ✓ Form a knowledgeable team.
- ✓ Define audit scope and checklist.
- ✓ Inspect firefighting gear, exit routes, electrical safety, and fire doors.
- ✓ Evaluate safety training and emergency procedures.
- ✓ Document findings and suggest enhancements.
- ✓ Make improvements and schedule follow-up audits.

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