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## 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 sunliaht.

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.

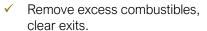
Cords: Check for damage; don't cover; disconnect safely.

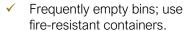
GFCIs: Install in wet areas; test monthly.

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.





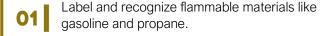




Maintain cleanliness, delegate cleaning tasks.

## Store Flammable Materials Safely

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



Use fire-resistant containers and limit quantities in the workplace.

Store in well-ventilated areas to reduce vapor

Keep flammables away from heat sources and potential ignition points.

Safely dispose of flammable waste and regularly inspect storage areas for safety compliance.



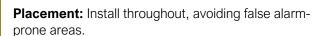
## Equip for Fire Safety

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:

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### **Fire Alarms**

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



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

# FIRE 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.

of preparedness."

## 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.





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.



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

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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