

Job Site Fire Prevention

A SAFETY TALK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings.

Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it.

Seating space is not absolutely necessary, but arrangements should be made so that those attending can easily see and hear the presentation.

Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

DURING THE MEETING

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide.

The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting.

At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

Job Site Fire Prevention

Fires are very costly to the construction industry. Each year they take many lives, cause workers and their families to suffer, and cost millions of dollars.

Fire control is everyone's business. You can do your part by observing and complying with fire-control regulations. If you notice any hazards or conditions that could cause a fire, report them to your supervisor immediately.

Matches and cigarettes are principal causes of fire. Many fires have started because of carelessly dropped live ashes, cigarette butts or burning matches. The temperature of the ash is often as high as 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit and if it comes in contact with combustibles, fire can result. Fireproof receptacles should be used to extinguish smoking materials.

Poor housekeeping is one of the major contributing factors that cause fires. Oily rags, paper, sawdust, solvents, paints and cartons should be disposed of properly. Trash should not be allowed to accumulate in the work area.

Oil or gasoline that is spilled on equipment should be cleaned up immediately. Make sure that oil-soaked rags are placed in proper safety containers.

Fires are also caused by the improper use of paints and solvents. Paint, paint thinner, alcohol, naphtha, lacquer thinner and gasoline should be used only for their intended purposes. Flammable liquids of any kind must be kept in approved safety containers.

The improper use of welding equipment can easily destroy our jobs. Fire-resistant covers, spark shields and a fire watcher standing by, plus the proper use of the equipment, are the only answers to prevent damaging fire losses.

Defective wiring has caused many fires. Never try to repair wiring or equipment. Report defective items and have the repairs made by experts.

It's sometimes necessary to have a salamander or other temporary heating devices on the job site to warm yourself. Extreme caution should be used when the salamander is burning. Never throw combustibles into it. The fire should never be large enough to throw sparks.

Several fire extinguishers should be on the job site. Each of you should know where they are located and how to use them. You should also know where the fire alarm is located and how to turn in an alarm. Never try to extinguish a fire until you have turned in an alarm, and don't try to fight a fire alone.

NOTE TO DISCUSSION LEADER:

Bring the different types of fire extinguishers that are supplied in your work area to the meeting and demonstrate proper usage.

Review your company's fire record and discuss it with those attending. Describe where fire extinguishers are located and the evacuation procedures for employees.

Always watch for smoke because "where there's smoke there's (usually) fire."

Do what you can to prevent fires, but always be prepared by knowing what actions to take should one occur. Know where alarms and fire extinguishers are located. Fire control is everyone's business.

When you think of fire, think of safety!