

Construction Fire Safety Plan Additional Information



CONSTRUCTION FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES

The primary purpose of these guidelines is to protect life and property. These guidelines are aimed mainly at contractors.

Most issues at construction sites can be dealt with using simple precautions.

- 1) Street address of the site is to be posted and **clearly visible at all times** for all emergency response personnel including police, fire and ambulance. Address numbers should be affixed in a visible location at a level of about 2 m from the ground, or taped to the inside of a front facing window.
- 2) Smoking shall not be permitted in areas where conditions are hazardous or potential of ignition exists.
- 3) Fire Department Access is to be maintained at ALL times from start to completion of construction. Blocking or obstruction of access roads or hydrants with construction materials, equipment or excavation materials is not permitted.
- 4) **Construction Heaters shall be connected so as to minimize danger of mechanical damage and upset and be installed on a solid level base. Temporary heaters must be placed at least 5 m from combustible tarpaulins or similar coverings. Tarps must be securely fastened to prevent wind from blowing where they could upset the heater or be set on fire.**
- 5) Piping, tubing, hose and fittings shall be supported, secured and protected from damage and strain. Propane regulators shall be properly fastened within the protective cover.
- 6) Outdoor Refuse Containers shall be kept at least 3 meters from a combustible building and any building overhang or opening. Combustible waste materials in and around buildings shall not be permitted to accumulate in quantities or locations that will constitute a fire hazard.

Burning of waste material at construction sites is NOT PERMITTED.

- 7) Hot works shall be performed only by personnel trained in the safe use of hot work equipment. A fire watch shall be provided for a period of not less than 60 minutes after its completion. At least **one 10lb ABC portable extinguisher** and a pail of water shall be provided in the hot work area.
- 8) If fire breaks out the alarm should be raised as soon as the person discovers it and should be heard by everyone working on the site. **Immediately Dial 911.** Provide the operator with a street address and a description of the emergency.

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Fire and/or Evacuation Emergency Response Plan

Training

- Site orientations are provided to all workers/staff
- First Aid trained workers/staff are on site (if applicable)
- Fire safety requirements and evacuation procedures are incorporated into the regular site meetings

All trades/supervisory staff are trained in the use of fire extinguishers

First Aid

- Available to all personal on site
- First aid supplies located on site with valid standard first aid and CPR available, if required

Emergency Procedure

1. Don't panic
2. Turn off Equipment if safe to do so
3. Leave Fire Area Immediately
4. Close all doors behind you
5. Call for help and sound the alarm/horn
6. If possible try to extinguish the fire (if smaller than you)
7. If fire is larger than you or uncontainable, evacuate yourself, and call **9-1-1** communicate to others that **9-1-1** has been called

Our worksite address is _____

8. Use nearest exit to leave structure, **DO NOT** use man lifts or elevators
9. Meet at designated muster site, do not leave muster area unless it is compromised (as per site/event diagram)
10. Do head count – buddy system
11. Supervisor must await the arrival of the Fire Department at the main access point.

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Using a Fire Extinguisher

There is a simple acronym to remember to operate most fire extinguishers - **PASS**.

Pull
Aim
Squeeze
Sweep

Pull the pin at the top of the cylinder. Some units require the releasing of a lock latch or pressing a puncture lever.

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze or press the handle.

Sweep the contents from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.

Shut off the extinguisher and then watch carefully for a rekindling of the fire.

When to Fight a Fire

You should fight a fire with a fire extinguisher only when the following are true:

1. Everyone has left or is leaving the building.
2. The fire department has been called.
3. The fire is small and confined to the immediate areas where it started such as, in a wastebasket, cushion, small appliance, stove, etc.
4. You can fight the fire with your back to a safe escape route.
5. Your extinguisher is rated for the type of fire you are fighting and is in good working order.
6. You have had training in use of the extinguisher and are confident that you can operate it effectively.

Remember:

If you have the **slightest doubt** about whether or not to fight the fire - **DON'T**.

Instead, get out, closing the door behind you to slow the spread of the fire. You have one of the best fire departments in the world standing by ready to protect you. Let the professionals do their job.

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Fire prevention

1. Address is posted and clearly legible at the street side of the work site.
2. Keep all entrances, exits and roadway(s) clear of obstructions such as vehicles, equipment and general clutter at all times.
3. Keep areas free of unnecessary combustible materials.
4. Correct poor housekeeping practices
5. Use appropriate shielding of flammable surfaces when performing hot work (*Tar work, welding, cooking etc.*)
6. Use proper degreasing agents. Never use gasoline or other "flammable liquids" for degreasing or cleaning equipment.
7. Fuel storage and hazardous materials are stored appropriately and are not obstructing access or exits from event site
8. Fire Hydrants are to be unobstructed (if applicable) at all times
9. Ensure the Fire Department has clear access to the event
10. All supervisory staff should know the location and use of the firefighting equipment in their area
11. **Fire extinguishers must display a current annual inspection tag** and be ready for use
12. An appropriate number of fire extinguishers supplied
 - 1 fire extinguisher for every 139 m² (1500 ft²) **and/or** 75ft maximum travel distance
 - 1 per structure / tent / trailer on site
13. Never return an empty extinguisher to its fire station. Clearly mark it out of service and exchange it for a charged unit
14. All staff must receive training before using fire extinguishing equipment

Flammable and Combustible Storage

1. Storage area separated from combustible material by 3m
2. Storage area locked and vented as required
3. Storage area protected from vehicular/industrial motorized traffic
4. Portable pressurized (new or used) cylinders secured when not in use
5. A current /updated list of dangerous goods is kept on site (if applicable)
6. Storage area(s) is away from egress and access routes in and outside the building.