

Know Your Fire Safety Rules

Most of us have had the experience of being awakened by a fire engine screaming past in the night. It can cause a momentary icicle of fear to slide down your spine. The sound evokes concern for yourself or your loved ones. You wonder if there could be a fire in your house, but soon realize that the siren means that it's too late.

Although this segment will be dealing with job fire safety, many identical standards should be applied at home. Because we've been taught about fire safety rules since elementary school, we tend to think that we know everything there is to know. Fire safety has become boring and mundane. The lack of personal attentiveness has caused many misfortunes both at work and at home.

The leading causes of industrial fire are:

1. Electrical – either electrical equipment was misused or there was an electrical failure
2. Friction
3. Foreign substances
4. Open flames
5. Smoking and matches

How can you do your part to prevent industrial fire?

- Obey fire regulations such as “No Smoking “
- Properly extinguish and dispose of cigarettes and matches
- Inspect for worn electrical cords and circuits that are overloaded
- Discard flammable waste or scrap into approved metal receptacles
- Properly store combustibles in an approved area
- Discard flammable liquids in approved containers
- Conduct appropriate maintenance on tools

Fumes

Materials which are combustible, as well as fumes from flammables such as paint or solvents, are the cause of many industry and home fires. The simple reason for this is that fumes are largely invisible and can expand quite a distance to be ignited by an electrical spark, furnace, stove or even a cigarette that is lit.

Flammable liquids

Never pour flammable liquids down the drain. Many sewer lines have burst or caught fire because of this careless act.

Paint cans and aerosols

Never discard explosive products such as paint cans or aerosols in a container which is used to hold materials which are to be burned. They will explode and spew flaming material all around.

Know how you plan to fight a fire

Familiarize yourself with the location of fire alarms and firefighting equipment. Learn how to use them. Review the procedures for activating the fire alarm. Be aware of which extinguishers are used on what type of fire.

Water Extinguishers for fire which involves:

- Wood
- Paper
- Cloth
- Rubbish of a like material

Carbon Dioxide or Dry Chemical Extinguishers for fire which involves:

- Burning liquids such as gasoline or oil
- Electrical fire

Preventative tool maintenance

Fire safety is also contingent on proper tool maintenance. Examine electrical tools prior to use to ensure correct operation. Lubricate moving parts to lessen friction. Always use exhaust spark arrestors.

Everyone should remain vigilant for safety hazards so that the hazards may be eliminated. Report any discrepancies to your supervisor. Always remember that your job security is aided by your adherence to fire safety.

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