

## Toolbox Talk: Fire Prevention

### Introduction/Overview:

Fire is something we use to make our lives easier and more comfortable. Whether we are cooking a meal or lighting a fireplace for warmth, fire can be our best friend. However, when it starts accidentally or gets out of control, that “friend” can become deadly and our worst enemy.

### Statistics:

In 2019, 481,500 structure fires cost \$14,800,000,000 in United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association report. During that same year, 3,700 civilian deaths and injuries to 16,600 civilians were caused by fires. On average, local fire departments responded to a fire every 24 seconds in 2019.

### Talking Points:

Keep all flammables in approved containers.

When transferring flammable liquids between containers, bond the two containers together and ground one to eliminate static.

Store flammables away from heat and other ignition sources.

Do not place hot equipment such as a portable heater near combustibles like paper.

Do not overload circuits or use damaged cords.

Keep work areas free of dust and lint and dispose of trash properly.

Only use welders, torches, and grinders in designated areas. If work has to be done outside these areas, a hot-work permit must be obtained.

Ensure portable fire extinguishers are fully charged and accessible at all times.

### Additional Discussion Notes:

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Developed by:

## Final Thoughts:

Prevention is best. However, if a fire does occur, you must know what to do. Pull the alarm or warn others, evacuate the area (unless you are designated as part of the fire brigade), and call 911 once you are safely away from the fire.

**NOTE:** Always promote discussion with the attendees. If a question comes up that no one in attendance can answer, please contact OWC or the Loss Control Innovations consultants for assistance.

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## References:

National Fire Protection Association

Fire Loss in the United States During 2019

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/US-Fire-Problem/osFireLoss.pdf>

### **EHS Today**

**Preventing Workplace Fires: Tips to Avoid the Flames**

<https://www.ehstoday.com/safety/article/21917264/preventing-workplace-fires-tips-to-avoid-the-flames>