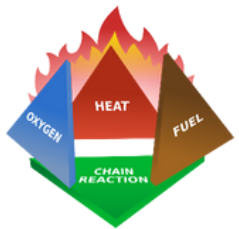


Toolbox Talk: Fire Prevention



Fires ignite and sustain themselves only when four key components come together to form what's known as the fire tetrahedron: heat, fuel, oxygen, and a chemical chain reaction. When these elements interact, a fire can begin and continue to burn. However, by removing or disrupting any one of these

components—whether it's cooling the heat, removing the fuel source, cutting off the oxygen supply, or stopping the chemical reaction—we can significantly reduce the risk of a fire starting or spreading.

Occupational Safety and Health Standard 1910.39 requires every employer to have a written fire prevention plan in place. This plan must include a list of all major fire hazards within the workplace, procedures to control the accumulation of flammable and combustible materials, and steps for the regular maintenance of fire prevention safeguards. Additionally, it must identify the job titles of employees responsible for maintaining equipment to prevent fires, as well as those responsible for controlling fuel source hazards. This standard is designed to minimize fire risks and ensure a safe working environment for all employees.

You can reduce fire hazards by:

- Keep the workplace neat and orderly. Dispose of trash promptly.
- Keep fire extinguishers, fire equipment and exits clear at all times.
- Ensure fire extinguishers are charged during monthly inspections.
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes in the workplace.
- When the fire alarm activates, evacuate! You never know when it could be the real thing.

Remember these fire safety tips:

- If smoke, stay as low to the ground as possible.
- If safe, close all doors behind you as you leave the building.
- Never return to a burning building!

Prevention is best! However, if a fire does occur, each employee must know what to do. Pull the alarm or warn others, evacuate the area, and call 911 once you are safely away from the fire.

