



Toolbox Talks

Fire Safety



The best fire safety plan starts with fire prevention, to ensure a safe construction site, however, when fire prevention measures fail, it is just as critical to be prepared to prevent as much damage as possible by extinguishing the fire quickly and ensuring every worker can evacuate quickly and safely.

Good housekeeping is key to fire prevention, but poor housekeeping can lead to small fires that get out of control quickly.

OSHA Standard 1926.25(b) Combustible scrap and debris shall be removed at regular intervals during the course of construction. Safe means shall be provided to facilitate such removal.

For each 3,000 square feet of the construction area, at least one of the following must be available as a fire extinguisher.

- portable fire extinguisher, rated not less than 2A
 - 55-gallon open drum of water with two fire pails
 - garden-type hose line 1/2-inch in diameter, not longer than 100 feet, equipped with a nozzle, capable of discharging a minimum of 5 gallons of water per minute with a minimum hose stream range of 30-feet
- If flammable liquids, combustible liquids or flammable gas are present at the construction site, then a portable fire extinguisher, rated not less than 10B, must be provided.
- Travel distance from any point at the site to the nearest fire extinguisher must not be more than 100 feet.
- In multi-story construction builds there must be fire extinguishers on every floor and at least one fire extinguisher located adjacent to the stairway.
- Portable fire extinguishers should be made available at convenient and accessible locations in any outdoor storage area.

Exits must be kept clear throughout construction to allow for a quick and safe evacuation, if needed.

- Fire walls and exit stairways, required for the building under construction, must be given priority during construction.
- Temporary buildings must not be erected in such a way that they block or partially block an exit.
- Material storage cannot obstruct any exit.

OSHA Standard 1926.150(b)(1) A temporary or permanent water supply, of sufficient volume, duration, and pressure, required to properly operate the firefighting equipment shall be made available as soon as combustible materials accumulate.

