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## Fire Safety Tips

Fires on construction sites cause major property loss and can be deadly. Developing a site specific fire prevention and inspection policy can minimize the potential for fires on construction sites. Consider these tips for fire safety.

### Fire Prevention Policy

OSHA requires that each job site have a fire prevention plan and such plan should include these items:

- Access to all firefighting equipment must be maintained at all times.
- All firefighting equipment must be conspicuously located and maintained.
- Training must be provided to employees who will use fire protection equipment.
- Portable fire extinguishers are required on all job sites.
- Fire emergency reporting numbers should be prominently posted.
- Flammable and combustible liquids must be stored and dispensed properly.
- LP gas-fired equipment must be used and LP cylinders stored in accordance with regulations.
- Ensure workers know how to report a fire or other emergency to minimize response time.
- Develop an inspection program that periodically reviews the fire prevention efforts on the project.

### Mobile Equipment

- Accumulations of grass, brush or trash under mobile equipment can be ignited by the engine or exhaust and equipment storage locations should be cleared of these materials.

- During daily equipment inspections note any leaks or seepage from hoses or fittings and replace at the first sign of wear or leakage.
- Only refuel equipment that is turned off and cool. Spilled fuel can be ignited by hot surfaces.
- Keep the equipment clean. Excessive build-up of dirt can cause higher temperatures and increased wear on components.
- Protect against arson and vandalism by locking all engine compartment covers and fuel supplies.
- Keep equipment away from open fires or hot work that could be an ignition source.

### Construction Areas

- Enforce a no-smoking rule in all building locations, fueling areas and near combustible/flammable storage locations.
- Only store flammable liquids in approved containers.
- Initiate and enforce a good housekeeping policy to minimize accumulation of scrap and combustible debris
- Locate trash bins/skips away from buildings.
- Install and maintain electrical and temporary heating systems in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

- Only allow the installation and maintenance of temporary electrical systems to be performed by qualified electricians.
- Inspect temporary electrical equipment periodically for damage.
- Control hazards of cutting and welding using a hot work program or permit system.

## Fire Fighting Equipment

- Maintain fire extinguishers and fire suppression systems in accordance with OSHA requirements.
- Inspect fire extinguisher to ensure they are pressurized and quick access to them is not blocked off by materials.
- Ensure fire extinguishers are readily available near hot work operations.
- Ensure fire hydrants are not blocked by equipment or material storage.

## Storage Areas

- Maintain storage yards to reduce accumulation of grass, trash or brush that could allow a fire to spread.
- Maintain fueling areas in accordance with OSHA requirements.
- Do not allow dunnage, pallets, cardboard or other scrap to accumulate in storage areas or inside storage containers.

## Working with Public Agencies

- Develop site plans that indicate fire department access points for your job site.
- Contact the local fire department and make sure they have the correct address information for your site.
- Identify new street names on plans and verify that local police and fire departments have this information.
- Maintain a 24-hour contact number so law enforcement or fire department personnel can reach you in an emergency or to confirm after-hours site access.
- Request additional patrols and discuss who has after-hours access and authorization with local police.
- Request a pre-plan walk-through by the local fire department to ensure they are familiar with your operations.
- Discuss water volume requirements with fire department personnel to ensure adequate water is available based on type/size of the project.

▶ To learn more about Hanover Risk Solutions, visit [hanoverrisksolutions.com](https://hanoverrisksolutions.com)



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