

Fire Safety at Home

You can take your fire safety procedures home with you. Your family will appreciate it. Check to make sure you have reviewed the following with your family:

- Emergency procedures, including escape routes.
- Fire prevention in the home, including good housekeeping.
- Fire drill procedures (practice once a month, especially with young children).
- Family smoking policy; either no smoking or provide proper ashtrays.
- Safety of the children; are they trained to escape from fires in your home, garage, or yard?
- Fire extinguishers; are they working and accessible?

Make your own safety checklist. Review it with your family. Every few months go over it again to see what may be missing.

Your professional attitude from the workplace will help your family take fire safety seriously.



Summary

Production quotas, jobs, and lives are at stake in the “fight against fire.” The best tool in the fight is planning. Prevention of fire, training of personnel, recognition of fire hazards, and safe operating procedures are all part of the solution.

Proper emergency procedures can reduce damages, save lives, and keep everyone on the job. Join the fire safety “team” in your work area.

For more information, refer to current applicable Occupational Health and Safety Legislation.

The Alberta Construction Safety Association's mission is to provide quality advice and education for the construction industry that will reduce human suffering and financial costs associated with workplace incidents. This brochure is part of a series, **The Toolbox Brochures**, which are available on a variety of safety topics. If you have any questions or comments please contact:



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Construction Fires



Making Safety A Way Of Life



The Alberta Construction Safety Association

Fires in Construction

There are fire hazards on all work sites. Fire safety practices, fire brigade training, proper fire fighting equipment, and good fire fighting techniques are all part of the “fight against fire” on the jobsite.

Play it Safe

Check your workplace for fire hazards. You and your co-workers can play it safe by cooperating with each other and with the fire department.

Common causes of fires at various work sites include:

- **Poor housekeeping**—many work sites have piles of materials, old paint cans, rags, and garbage.
- **Poorly stored materials** inside or outside of a storage area—especially flammable liquids or gases.
- **Smoking** in non-smoking areas.
- **Sparks** from welding, cutting, or grinding.
- **Defective electrical cords.**

Be sure that fire safety plans include the use of protective clothing and devices such as self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) or fire retardant coveralls. Know your gear—know the plan.

If a fire occurs, your best protection will be to follow emergency response plans, established escape routes, and correct fire extinguishing methods.



Classification of Fires

Class A—fires that occur in combustible materials such as paper, wood, straw, and cloth.



Class B—fires that involve flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and grease.



Class C—fires that occur in electrical equipment.



Do Not Add Fuel to the Fire

Every workplace has different materials and chemicals—sometimes hazardous—that can create fires. Be sure you know which fire extinguisher is best for the type of fire. If you don't know, then clear the area and let the fire department do its work.

Many fires require specialized fire fighting gear, chemicals, or techniques. Water is the best agent for fighting ordinary Class A “combustible” fires but is NOT appropriate in many other situations.

You Need to Know More

You need to know what type(s) of fires may occur in your area or jobsite and what type of extinguisher to use.

Protection and Prevention

Taking precautions against fire is one of the most basic safety efforts you can be involved in. Prevention and protection go hand-in-hand.

Check this list for prevention and protection procedures:

- Fire exits should be clear of obstructions and properly marked.
- Smoke in designated smoking areas only.
- Ensure all doors are clear of obstructions and are easy to open.
- Have an effective fire alarm system.
- Hold regular fire drills.
- Keep fire doors closed.
- Handle and store flammable liquids according to safe storage procedures.
- Make sure all fire fighting equipment is in the right location and that you know how to use it.
- Know necessary first aid procedures.
- Check to see that proper extinguishers are on hand and inspected regularly.

