



# Fire Protection

*The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to implement fire protection and prevention programs in the workplace. The regulations that apply to fire protection and prevention can be found mainly in Subpart F of the construction standards, though the requirement for a fire prevention program is first set out in Subpart C.*

Fire prevention requires segregating the three elements of the fire triangle. In practice, a method to achieve that goal is to post—and enforce—no-smoking signs around flammable liquids and gases and have fire watches on all work involving torch-applied materials of a minimum of two hours after the last torch is turned off. Flammable and Combustible Liquids Proper storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids will help prevent fires from occurring; only approved, closed containers for storage of flammable or combustible liquids may be used under OSHA rules.

Every workplace must have enough exits suitably located to enable everyone to get out of the facility quickly. Considerations include the type of structure, the number of persons exposed, the fire protection available, the type of industry involved, and the height and type of construction of the building or structure. In addition, exit doors must not be blocked or locked when employees are inside. Exit routes from buildings must be free of obstructions and properly marked with exit signs. See 29 CFR Part 1910.36 for details about these requirements.

## Workers have the right to:

- Working conditions that do not pose a risk of serious harm.
- Receive information and training (in a language and vocabulary the worker understands) about workplace hazards, methods to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to their workplace.
- File a complaint asking OSHA to inspect their workplace if they believe there is a serious hazard or that their employer is not following OSHA's rules. OSHA will keep all identities confidential.
- Exercise their rights under the law without retaliation, including reporting an injury or raising health and safety concerns with their employer or OSHA. If a worker has been retaliated against for using their rights, they must file a complaint with OSHA as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days.

Osha.gov

## Hazards and Possible Solutions

Fire safety becomes everyone's job at a worksite. Employers should train workers about fire hazards in the workplace and about what to do in a fire emergency. This plan should outline the assignments of key personnel in the event of a fire and provide an evacuation plan for workers on the site. In the construction industry, a "fire plan" should be set up prior to beginning any demolition job.

Osha.gov

