Fire and safety presentation: a fire prevention toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.25, 1926.152, 1926.151, 1926.150, 1926.24, 1910.39

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

If a fire started in this work area right now, where is the nearest extinguisher and the nearest way out?

Why it matters

A small fire can get out of control fast, and smoke can make it hard to see or breathe before you ever see flames. A fire can start from something simple, like a pile of scrap, a leaking gas can, oily rags or a heater too close to something that burns. Preventing a fire is always safer than fighting one.

Key points

1. **Know what a fire needs**
   A fire needs fuel, heat and oxygen. Take away any one of them and a fire cannot start or keep burning. Fire prevention on the job mostly comes down to keeping fuel and heat apart.

2. **Clean up what can burn**
   Scrap wood, cardboard, packaging and rags are all fuel. In construction, combustible scrap and debris must be removed at regular intervals, with a safe way to haul it out. Put oily and used rags in a covered container, because oily rags can heat up and catch fire on their own.
   29 CFR 1926.25(b)

3. **Store flammable liquids the right way**
   In construction, only approved containers and portable tanks may be used to store and handle flammable liquids like gasoline and many solvents. Never put fuel in a drink bottle or an open bucket. Keep fuel cans out of exits, stairways and walkways, and away from heat and sparks.
   29 CFR 1926.152(a)(1)

4. **Control sparks, flames and heat**
   On construction sites, smoking is prohibited at or near operations that are a fire hazard, and those areas must be posted “No Smoking or Open Flame.” Keep heaters, work lights and engine exhausts away from anything that can burn. Welding and cutting need extra precautions, so check the area before any hot work starts.
   29 CFR 1926.151(a)(3)

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5 Keep extinguishers and exits clear

On construction sites, access to all firefighting equipment must be maintained at all times. Know where the nearest extinguisher is before you start, and make sure nothing is stacked in front of it. Never block exits or the paths to them, even for a few minutes.

29 CFR 1926.150(a)(2)

6 Report first, then decide

If a fire starts, sound the alarm and call 911 first. Only fight it if you are trained, the fire is small, you have the right extinguisher and your exit is behind you. Remember PASS: pull the pin, aim at the base of the fire, squeeze the handle and sweep side to side. If in doubt, get out.

Scenario

Picture this: It is the end of a long day on a remodel job. A painter drops a pile of oily stain rags into an open cardboard box next to a portable heater. Someone parks a gas can by the back door, and the fire extinguisher is hidden behind a stack of drywall. Nobody has noticed any of it yet. What would you fix before the crew leaves, and who should check it every day?

Crew discussion

1. Where are the nearest extinguishers and exits from where you are working today?
2. What on this site could burn, and what could set it off?
3. Where do oily rags, fuel cans and scrap go at the end of the shift?
4. If a fire starts, how do we report it and where do we meet outside?

Bottom line **Keep fuel away from heat, keep extinguishers and exits clear, and report any fire right away.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Fire prevention / Prevención de incendios

Date / Fecha _____

Trainer / Instructor _____ Location / Lugar _____ Company / Empresa _____

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