

FIRE PREVENTION

In 2015 there were over 1.3 million fires in America (US Fire Administration). During those fires there were approximately 3,280 deaths (US Fire Administration). The top five causes of non-residential fires are as follows: cooking at 29.5%, unintentional/careless at 10.4%, intentional at 9.4%, electrical malfunction at 7.8%, and Heating at 7.6%. All of these causes of fires could be prevented.

Keep Safety in Mind

Fire prevention in the workplace can be accomplished. There are some basic tools and processes that if followed, will reduce the chance of having a fire in the workplace.

Here are the top 5 things you need to know about fire prevention.

1. Separate three elements

- Keep fire away from combustibles
- Keep area free of debris and other combustible material
- Have designated smoking areas.

2. Proper storage, handling & signage

- Ensure that you are not storing ignition sources by combustible sources.
- Use a safety cabinet to store flammable chemicals.
- Ensure that proper signage is posted to keep three elements separate.

3. Proper welding, cutting, brazing & torching

- Use a fire watch during welding and torching activities.
- Ensure that the area is clear of combustible material.
- Follow OSHA regulations to keep the risk of fire down.

4. Proper use of electrical devices & wiring

- Do not overload a circuit.
- Ensure the wiring is done properly.
- Use the proper electrical devices for the job.
- There must be proper distance from control panels.
- Proper Maintenance on machines.

5. Be prepared

- Ensure fire alarms are installed.
- Use a sprinkler system.
- Ensure proper fire extinguishers qty & Inspection
- Employee Training
- Training of fire extinguishers
- Exits must be clear so people can exit safely.

Discussion

1. Where in your environment is there a fire hazard?
2. Can anyone share an experience relating to this topic?

