

Facts on Fire Safety

A SAFETY TALK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings.

Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it.

Seating space is not absolutely necessary, but arrangements should be made so that those attending can easily see and hear the presentation.

Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

DURING THE MEETING

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide.

The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting.

At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

Facts on Fire Safety

It's hard to imagine what it would be like to live without fire. Think about it.

Yet fire can be one of our deadliest enemies. It can mutilate us, kill us, and destroy in a few minutes what took a lifetime to build. Fire can take away our work places and our jobs.

How can fires be stopped? The answer is control. But to control fires we must understand them and know how to deal with them.

Fire needs three elements to exist--fuel, oxygen and heat. To understand the relationships, think of each as separate sides of a triangle. Fire need all three elements in the proper proportions to exist. If one side of the triangle is removed, the fire will go out. For fuel to ignite, oxygen must be present; then heat must be applied until the combustion point is reached. When this point is reached, the fuel will ignite with the oxygen, consuming both fuel and oxygen and giving off heat. If the oxygen is removed, the fire is smothered. If the fuel is removed, there's nothing left to burn. Oxygen by itself, will not burn. If the heat is lowered below the combustion point, the fuel and oxygen will not unite and the fire will go out.

For your safety and the safety of your co-workers you should know where fire extinguisher are located and how to use them properly.

Note to Discussion Leader:

Bring fire extinguisher to the meeting and demonstrate how to use it. Review your company's fire record and discuss it with employee. Describe the fire protection available at your company, where fire extinguishers are located and evacuation procedures.

The most important thing to remember about fire extinguishers is that you must use the correct type for each kind of fire.

Class A fire--combustible? such as wood, paper and cloth

Class B fires--flammable liquids

Class C fires--electrical

There are several types of fire extinguisher: foam, carbon dioxide, soda acid, pump tank, gas cartridge, multipurpose dry chemical and ordinary dry chemical.

Most extinguishers have label that list the type of fires that they can be used for.

The most common extinguisher is the multipurpose dry chemical type. It can be used for any class of fire. However, if the tag on the extinguisher is not labeled ABC, you must know the type of fire the extinguisher can be used on.

Class A fires:

- Foam
- Soda Acid
- Pump Tank (contains plain water)
- Gas Cartridge (water expelled by carbon dioxide gas)

Class B fires:

- Foam
- Carbon Dioxide
- Multipurpose Dry Chemical
- Ordinary Dry Chemical

Class C fires:

- Carbon Dioxide
- Multipurpose Dry Chemical
- Ordinary Dry Chemical

Remember, it's important to use the correct type of extinguisher for the fire at hand. You should not use a water type extinguisher for a flammable liquid fire because it would cause the fire to spread. And you would not use this type of extinguisher on an electrical fire because this would expose you to a serious or fatal shock.

For your safety and the safety of your co-workers:

- Know where fire extinguishers and fire alarm boxes are located. Keep these areas free of debris.
- Store all flammable liquids in approved safety containers.
- Observe no smoking signs at all times.

Fire is an essential part of our live. We cannot do without it, but we must stop unwanted fires that can destroy our buildings, lives and job. Never take the attitude that any building is fireproof or that fires won't happen. Do what you can to prevent fires, but always be prepared by knowing what actions to take if one occurs. Good teamwork is a must. To prevent fires we must all work together.