

Workplace Fire Safety

Fire prevention and safety begins with you

A fire in the workplace can be devastating. In addition to injuries, potential death and property loss, indirect impacts such as operational downtime or vital services provided from the business can have a detrimental effect on a community.

Owners of commercial, industrial, and agribusiness facilities should be prepared and plan ahead. Periodically reviewing potential hazards and conditions that could result in a fire and developing a fire safety plan can help reduce the risk of a tragic loss.

Key elements of a Fire Safety Plan

An effective fire safety plan includes two elements—prevention and control.

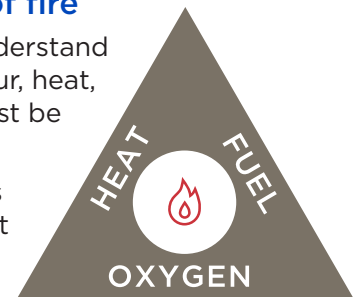
Fire prevention—Understanding how to prevent fires from starting is essential in protecting your business from fire loss. Keep ignition sources away from flammable fuels or other items that can burn such as packaging materials.

Fire control—Despite your best prevention efforts, fires may start so you and your employees should know what to do in the event of a fire to mitigate the hazards.

Basic elements of fire

It is important to understand that for a fire to occur, heat, fuel, and oxygen must be present together.

If any one of these is missing, a fire cannot start. It is important that steps are taken to avoid the three coming together and thereby reduce the chances of a fire occurring.



Manufacturing facilities fire loss trends¹

- 24% of fires caused by electrical and lighting systems.
- 6% of fires caused by heating systems.
- 80% of fires cause an injury and 49% of fires result in a fatality.

¹National Fire Incident Reporting System database (NFIRS)

In the event of a fire

- Do not panic
- Call 911
- If in a building, evacuate everyone immediately and **do not re-enter** the building
- If possible, turn off main electrical power, propane fuel valve, and/or natural gas line valve

Fire Safety Checklist: Preventing Workplace Fires

Have a fire safety plan that helps identify potential hazards and prepare in the event of a fire emergency is crucial to reducing the likelihood of a tragic fire loss. Consider using the following sample checklist to assist and guide you with updating or developing your fire safety plan.

Are flammable and combustible liquids in proper containers? Check for UL label.

Are combustible materials separated from heat sources (hot engines, welding and metal cutting/metal grinding activities, etc.)?

Are used oily rags in a proper container with a closed lid?

Remember to refuel outdoors and allow the engine to cool.

Practicing good housekeeping? – clean up spills and transport trash away as needed. Yard maintenance should prevent tall grass against buildings.

Engines and other machinery maintained in good condition to prevent overheating, sparking, and backfiring? Check lubrication regularly.

Electrical wiring, outlets and breaker/fuse panels condition checked and repaired as needed? Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances.

Is there at least 3 feet of clear space to electrical panels?

Are extension cords rated for their intended use and used for temporary tasks only?

Are machines and equipment not in use unplugged from outlets?

Are fire extinguishers in each building and pressure gauges checked?

Have emergency planning and emergency practice drills been completed?

Does each building have adequate emergency exits with no obstacles?

Is the driveway clear and accessible for fire trucks/emergency vehicles?

Has the local fire department visited for pre-emergency planning?

Are “No Trespassing” and “No Smoking” signs posted as needed?

Are heating systems in good condition and installed per the manufacturer guidelines?

Does the exhaust stack on heating systems passing through a wood roof have adequate buffer space to prevent excess heating of the roof assembly?

Is propane/natural gas piping between tanks and heating systems in good condition? Vehicle barriers are a good protection measure for tanks and piping.

Are fire sprinkler systems inspected, tested and maintained regularly?

Are fire doors inspected, tested and maintained regularly?

Are lightning rods and grounding cables in good condition?

Are smoke detectors installed in each building and batteries tested?

Checklist completed by: _____

Date: _____



For assistance with fire safety and prevention contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.