

RISK INSIGHTS

FIRE PREVENTION ON CONSTRUCTION SITES



Fires are dangerous and can burn out of control in as little as 30 seconds! An effective loss prevention plan can help you keep your property and possessions safe in the event of a fire.

Fire protection should be in accordance with the type and size of the contract work involved. Consider the following recommendations as complementary to any local regulations or specific requirements.

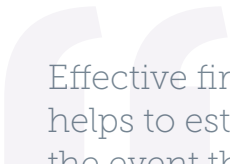
Fire Prevention Features

- The site superintendent continually evaluates on site fire protection hazards and exposures.
- If the daily supervision responsibility is delegated, primary responsibility remains with the site superintendent.
- The person responsible for fire protection patrols the entire site once per shift.
- Secure the site with an adequately constructed fence or hoarding.
- Consider view portals with hoarding to prevent an attractive nuisance.
- Ensure temporary buildings such as offices, rest rooms or material stores are made of non-combustible materials or at least of materials of limited combustibility.
- Maintain adequate safety distances between temporary buildings.
- Subdivide material and equipment stored indoors or outdoors into fire sections. Depending on the storage method, sufficient clear space should be provided between sections to allow accessibility.
- Store combustible materials at a safe distance from buildings and structures.
- Avoid the use of combustible formwork material, such as scaffolding, if possible. If such materials must be used, they should be marked and stored at a safe distance from construction work.
- Place marked trash and recyclable containers throughout the job site.
- Erect firewalls with no openings between different buildings.
- Erect staircases with floor slabs to ensure adequate means of egress and access for emergency personnel.
- Keep access points free and accessible.
- Install fire doors with automatic door closers as early as possible.
- Install lightning conductors as early as possible.
- Cover exposed combustible insulation as soon as practical.
- Pay utmost attention to good housekeeping such as:
 - Orderly storage
 - Remove combustible material periodically, either in a noncombustible bin at a safe location or removal from site
 - Daily clean-up of site or as often as required

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- Hot work such as welding, brazing, soldering, cutting, etc. requires utmost caution. Ensure an adequate hot work procedure or hot work permit system is in use and enforced. Additional key items to controls and safety protocols aimed at identifying hot work hazards and controlling their associated risks are as follows:
 - Place combustibles 15 m (50 ft) away from the hot work area or shield with flameproof covers or curtains extending to the ground
 - Cover floor and wall openings within 15 m (50 ft) with non-combustible materials to prevent the passage of sparks or hot slag
 - Ensure adequately sized fire extinguishing equipment such as dry chemical fire extinguisher is present and accessible
 - Conduct final inspection of the hot work area four hours after the completion of work
 - Do not perform hot work in the last sixty minutes of the workday or sixty minutes prior to any breaks
- Require special caution when using combustible insulation and sealing materials or adhesives.
- Do not use extension cords as permanent wiring. Use extension cords only to temporarily supply power to an area that does not have a power outlet.
- Tape cords to walls or floors when necessary as nails and staples can damage cords, causing fire and shock hazards.
- Enforce a no smoking policy in areas exposed to fire and in the vicinity of hazardous operations.
- Ensure the temporary heaters are "listed" or "approved" by a recognized testing organization such as UL/ULC, CSA, or FM approved for construction site use and clearance to combustibles are maintained as per the temporary heater's specifications.
- Provide a suitable sized dry chemical extinguisher within the vicinity of temporary space heaters.

For more information on making your business safer, contact our Risk Services team at **1.833.692.4112** or visit www.federated.ca.



Effective fire prevention and control helps to establish a solid defense in the event that a fire does occur.

Fire Control Features

Effective fire prevention and control helps to establish a solid defense in the event that a fire does occur.

- Provide a security guard service during non-operational hours including weekends conducting periodical rounds or monitored video surveillance cameras providing adequate coverage of the construction site.
- Report a fire to the site engineer and the person supervising fire protection immediately.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near every telephone on the premise.
- Install a fire alarm system and ensure it gets tested regularly.