

Focus of the Month

FIRE PROTECTION MUST BE A WORKPLACE PRIORITY

We've made great strides in workplace fire safety, but there's still work to do. Fires continue to occur on job sites and in facilities across the country, causing injuries, fatalities, and costly damage. The truth is, any fire, no matter how small, is one too many. Eliminating workplace fires entirely may seem ambitious, but it's achievable through proactive planning and prevention.



+ Planning Is Key

- Identify and document all potential fire hazards across your facility or job site.
- Include heat sources, electrical outlets, equipment, and ignition sources.
- Don't overlook minor hazards, as the ones you miss are most likely to cause incidents.
- Use this list to build procedures that eliminate or control each risk.

+ Implementing OSHA Fire Protection Procedures

- Follow OSHA fire protection and prevention requirements at a minimum.
- Develop safe procedures for handling, storing, and using flammable materials.
- Keep hazardous materials away from ignition sources.
- Create controls for ignition sources like sparks, open flames, and hot work.
- Define suppression methods for each fire type. Remember, water isn't always safe (e.g., electrical fires).
- Store flammable liquids safely in approved containers and away from heat, sparks, or other ignition sources to prevent spills and accidental ignition.

+ Accounting for Less Obvious Fire Hazards

- Include combustible dusts (wood, metal, plastic) in your fire prevention plan.
- Address the accumulation of cardboard, paper, and wooden pallets that can ignite easily.
- Implement housekeeping and ventilation procedures to reduce the buildup of combustible materials.

+ Employee Training & Awareness

- Communicate all fire hazards and procedures to employees.
- Post clear signage showing fire hazards, extinguisher locations, and exit routes.
- Maintain a written fire prevention plan that's accessible to everyone.
- Provide training so employees understand not just what to do, but why it matters.
- Encourage ongoing awareness and regular plan reviews.
- If workers are expected to use fire extinguishers, they must be trained annually on proper use and safety.

Fire safety starts with prevention.

Keeping your team safe from fire starts with proactive planning - and you don't have to do it alone. OnPoint is here to help you make fire protection a lasting priority.

