

OCTOBER
is
Fire Prevention Month

Office of Risk Management

Fire Safety and Prevention

Content

- Goals of a Fire Prevention Program
- Fire Prevention Strategies
- Housekeeping Issues
- Flammable and/or Combustible Liquids
- Electrical Fire Hazards

Fire Prevention Goals

- Life Safety
 - The primary goal of any fire safety efforts is to protect YOU from injury or loss of life
- Protection of Property
 - The secondary goal of any fire safety efforts is to prevent property damage
- Protection of Operations
 - Preventing fires and damage will allow operations to continue

Fire Prevention - How Fires Start

- **Fuel**
 - Any combustible material, solid, liquid or gas
- **Oxygen**
 - As little as 16 percent in air
- **Heat**
 - Changes combustible materials to vapor



Basic strategy of fire prevention

- ❖ If all three are not present in sufficient quantities, a fire will not ignite or a fire will not be able to sustain combustion

Housekeeping Issues

- Why is good housekeeping important?
 - Reduces amount of flammable and combustible materials
 - Reduces ignition hazards
 - Ensures safe evacuation of occupants
 - Allows for quick access to emergency personnel
- Work areas, halls, stairs and equipment should be kept clear of loose materials, trash, etc.
- NEVER block aisles, fire exits, emergency equipment, fire pull stations or fire extinguishers
- Keep use and storage of flammables and combustibles to a minimum

Housekeeping – Storage Guidelines

- All storage must be at least three feet from electrical panels
- Maintain at least three feet clearance from heating sources, air ducts, and lighting fixtures
- Storage on shelves must be at least 18 inches from the ceiling
- Do not store items in mechanical rooms or in stairwells

Flammable and Combustible Liquids

- Flammable and combustible liquids are potential fuel sources for fires and are present in almost every workplace
- It is actually vapor created by flammables and combustible liquids that ignites and burns
- It is important to understand what materials in your work are flammable and combustible so that you may properly store and isolate them from ignition sources

Electrical Fire Hazards

- Faulty electrical equipment or misuse of equipment produces heat and sparks that serve as ignition sources
- Extension cords – BIG “no-no”. Instead, put in a work order to install permanent wiring
- Multi-plug surge protectors – should only be used for office equipment such as computers or printers
 - NOTE: Microwaves, refrigerators, copy machines must be plugged directly into the wall
 - Surge protectors should have a fuse or circuit breaker and be UL approved

THINK SAFETY

 JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY 