



Fire Safety

Fires and burns are common causes of unintentional injuries and deaths in the United States. Workers can benefit from awareness of possible fire hazards at the worksite and how to protect themselves.

Tim's Story

Tim was painting the walls in the attic of a three-story house. A fire began in the basement because of bad wiring in a light socket near the ceiling. The house did not have any working smoke alarms. Because Tim was in the attic, he did not smell the smoke until it was too late. He was not able to make it out, and he died.

- ✘ What caused this incident?
- ✘ How could this have been prevented?
- ✘ Have you ever been injured from a fire at a worksite, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- Your employer is required to develop a fire protection program and explain it to their workers. The program should include helping workers identify and correct fire hazards.
- Identify possible fire hazards before work begins. These could include flammable liquids, electrical wiring, heat sources from welding or other hot processes, combustible materials, portable heaters, and some batteries.

- Check that there are working smoke alarms in areas under construction.
- Make sure you know where the fire extinguishers are and how to use them.
- Have at least one fire extinguisher of the right class for each type of fire hazard on your worksite:
 - Class A for wood, paper, cardboard, plastic, etc.
 - Class B for combustible liquids such as gasoline, oil, and kerosene.
 - Class C for electrical fires.
 - Combination extinguishers for any Class A, B, or C hazards.
 - Class D for specific combustible metals. Another option is to smother the fire with dry sand.**Never** put water on a combustible metal fire.
- Keep flammable and combustible materials away from heat and ignition sources, such as portable heaters. Make sure the area around flammable and combustible materials remains clear.
- Have a ventilation system that brings in fresh air and removes flammable and combustible fumes and vapors.
 - This can be natural airflow from windows, doors, and other openings or employer-provided local exhaust ventilation systems.
 - This is especially important where you use paints, solvents, or other flammable materials.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent fires?

OSHA Standards: 1926.150–157



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- ✓ Have at least one fire extinguisher of the right class for each fire hazard.
- ✓ Know where the fire extinguishers are and how to use them.
- ✓ Have a ventilation system, especially where you use paints, solvents, or other flammable materials.

**GET
INFORMATION**

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | [cdc.gov/info](https://www.cdc.gov/info) | [cdc.gov/niosh/construction](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction)
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