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National Fire Prevention Week

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Division -- Bozeman

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Comments:

:Fire won't wait : plan your escape.:

This week is National Fire Prevention Week and it's worth paying attention to. Why: Because a fire can turn a normal day whether on the jobsite or at home into a disaster in less than two minutes.

A quick reality check

On the job site: Last year, OSHA reported that over 1,000 construction-related fires started from things like hot work, temporary heaters, and electrical mishaps. Most could have been prevented with basic controls in place.

At home: In the U.S., cooking remains the #1 cause of house fires. Half of all home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7a.m. : when we are sleeping.

Think about that, at work, we've got fire watches, supervisors, and drills. At home, it might just be you and your family.

Hazards to watch on the jobsite

Hot Work Sparks : cutting, grinding, or welding without a clear area. Sparks can smolder in the trash or insulation for hours before erupting.

Temporary Power : overloaded cords, daisy chains, or running cords through doorways that pinch the insulation.

Compressed Gas Cylinders : oxygen and acetylene stored together or left unsecured.

Housekeeping : scrap piles, rags soaked in solvents, or cardboard leaning against heaters.

Ask the crew : where's the closest fire extinguisher from where you are standing right now:

Home Hazards You May Overlook

Cooking : :I'll just check my phone for a minute: turns into a kitchen fire.

Space Heaters : A blanket or curtain too close : fire spreads before you wake up.

Electrical : Extension cords as permanent wiring, overloaded outlets, or cheap knock-off power strips.

Candles & Smoking : Still in the top 5 causes of preventable house fires.

Ask the crew : When was the last time you changed the batteries and tested your smoke alarms at home:

Prevention = Everyday Habits

At Work

Never start hot work without a fire watch and extinguisher in place.

Keep flammables in approved containers, not tucked behind a gang box.

Maintain 3 feet of clearance around heaters.

Keep Exits and extinguishers clear : don't block them even for a minute.

At Home

Check smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries every year.

Create and practice a family escape plan with two ways out of each room.

Keep a fire extinguisher or fire blanket in the kitchen and garage.

Teach young children how to dial 911 : don't assume they know how.

Emergency Readiness

On the jobsite.

Know two ways out of your work area : don't rely on one exit.

Foreman and Crew Leaders must take accountability after evacuation.

Everyone should know PASS when using a fire extinguisher : Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.

At Home

Sleep with bedroom doors closed : its buys precious minutes in a fire.

Designate a meeting place outside (a tree, a mailbox, or a neighbor's driveway.)

Practice a drill in the dark : because that's when most home fire deaths occur.

Remember This!

Fire safety isn't about checking a box once a year. It's about everyday awareness. On the job, it's making sure today's hot work doesn't become tomorrow's 3 a.m. phone call. At home, it's making sure your kids know how to get out if the smoke alarm sounds.

:Fire won't wait:and neither should we.: