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## **National Fire Prevention Week**

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**Division --** Missoula

**Start Date --** 2025-10-07

**Expiration Date --** Does not expire

**Job Name --** RML

**Foreman --** John Portrey

**Attendance --** John Portrey, Chris Jenkins

### **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.: