

National Fire Prevention Week

Instructor -- Chris Jenkins

Division -- Portland

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Expiration Date -- Does not expire

Job Name -- Hewlett-Packard

Foreman -- Anthony Light

Attendance -- Anthony Light, 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 to 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 .: