

Fire Safety

Fires and burns are the fifth most common cause of accidental injury deaths in the United States. Workers need to be aware of potential fire hazards at the worksite and how to protect themselves.

Tim's Story

Tim was painting the walls of an attic in a three-story house. A fire began in the basement due to bad wiring in a light socket near the ceiling. There was no working smoke detector in the house, and because Tim was in the attic, he did not smell the smoke until it was too late. Tim was not able to make it out and he died.

✂ **How could this incident have been avoided?**

✂ **What are possible fire hazards at your worksite?**

Remember This

- Make sure you have a ventilation system, especially where paints, solvents, or other flammable materials are being used.

- Before you begin work, make sure there are working smoke alarms in areas under construction.
- Make sure fire extinguishers are available that are the right class for the fire hazards on your job:
 - *Class A* for wood, paper, cardboard, plastic, etc.
 - *Class B* for combustible liquid such as gasoline, oil, and kerosene; these contain a dry chemical.
 - *Class C* for electrical fires
 - *Combination extinguishers* for combustible metal; these contain an inert dry material.
- Make sure you have at least one extinguisher of the appropriate class for each type of fire hazard.
- Make sure you know where the fire extinguishers are and how to use them.
- Keep flammable and combustible materials away from portable heaters and keep the area around them clear.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent fires?

1. _____

2. _____

OSHA Regulation: 29 CFR 1926.1000

Fire Safety



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