

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention: Vehicles

Let's look at vehicle fires; this applies to automobiles as well as forklifts & other powered industrial equipment you use. Between 2002-2005, highway-type vehicle fires accounted for 18% of reported fires & 13% of U.S. deaths. On average, 33 highway vehicle fires were reported per hour. These fires killed one person a day. Cars & other passenger vehicles account for the vast majority of highway vehicle fires & associated losses. In 2002-2005, only 19% of highway vehicle fire actually occurred on highways; 33% occurred on streets, roads, or driveways, & 17% were in parking lots.

Most vehicle fires resulted from mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions.

- o Have your vehicles inspected at least annually by a trained professional technician.
- o Watch for fluid leaks under vehicles, cracked or blistered hoses, or wiring that is loose, has exposed metal, or has cracked insulation. Have any of these conditions inspected & repaired as soon as possible.
- o Be alert to changes in the way your vehicle sounds when running or to a visible plume of exhaust coming from the tailpipe. A louder than usual exhaust tone, smoke coming from the tailpipe, or a backfiring exhaust could mean problems or damage to the high-temperature exhaust & emission control system on the vehicle. Have vehicles inspected & repaired as soon as possible if exhaust or emission control problems are suspected.

If a vehicle fire occurs:

- o Stop If possible, pull to the side of the road, & turn off the ignition to shut off the electric current & stop the flow of gasoline. Keep the hood closed, because more oxygen can make the fire larger.
- o Get Out Make sure everyone gets out of the vehicle. Then move at least 100 feet away.
- o Call for Help Call 9-1-1. Firefighters are specially trained to combat vehicle fires. Never return to the vehicle to attempt to fight the fire yourself. Vehicle fires can be tricky, even for firefighters.

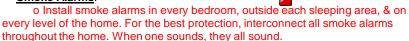
Fire Prevention: Home Heating

Did you know that heating is the #2 reason of home fires? In 2005, heating equipment was involved in 62.200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with 670 deaths, 1,550 injuries, & \$909 million in direct property damage. Nearly half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, & February in 2002-2005.

The use of portable space heaters were responsible for almost 1/3 of all home heating fires & 3/4 of all deaths in 2005. The top reason was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses, or bedding.

All information found at www.safetytoolboxtalks.com

→ Smoke Alarms:



Fire Prevention Tips

- o Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- o Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- o Make sure everyone can hear the sound of the smoke alarms. Talking smoke alarms have been found to be more effective with sleeping children.
- o Have a home fire escape plan. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible, & a meeting place outside. Practice your escape plan twice a year.
 - o When the smoke alarm sounds, get out & stay out.

→ Electrical:

- o Keep lamps, light fixtures, & light bulbs away from anything that can burn, such as lamp shades, bedding, curtains, & clothing.
 - o Replace cracked & damaged electrical cords.
 - o Use extension cords for temporary wiring only.
- o Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- o Call a qualified electrician or landlord if you have recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, discolored or warm wall outlets, flickering lights, or a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance.

→ Smoking:

- o If you smoke, smoke outside.
- o Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- o Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- o Keep matches & lighters up high in a locked cabinet, out of the reach of children.
 - o Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy.

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Know the extinguisher to use for each fire class:

- (A) for fires involving combustibles like wood or paper
- (B) for flammable liquids & gases
- (C) for fires where electricity may be present
- (D) for combustible metals like magnesium

Fire extinguishers are labeled for use on either a single class of fire (A) or (D), or for multiple classes fires (BC) or (ABC). Only trained employees should use fire extinguishers.

Keep the PASS method in mind when using a fire extinguisher:

- P: Pull the pin
- A: Aim hose at the base of the fire
- S: Squeeze the trigger
- S: Sweep back & forth with the extinguisher

Remember these firefighting tips:

o Most fire extinguishers are emptied in less than a minute. o Do not attempt to fight a large fire. o Always leave yourself a way out--keep your back to an exit.

