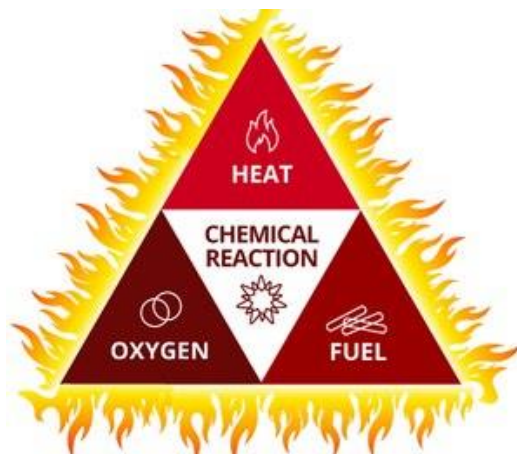


## FIRE SAFETY

Basic fire safety knowledge is an important skill that can save your life on or off the job. Here we will breakdown basic characteristics of a fire, important fire safety tips, what to do if you find yourself involved with a fire, and some discussion points for your group.

### Characteristics of Fire

- To support fire it requires heat, fuel, oxygen, and a sustained chemical reaction.
- A small fire can grow out of control in as little as 30 seconds.
- A room freshly involved with fire can have a temperature of over 200°F at floor level and over 1100°F at eye level. In less than 5 minutes a room can flashover and become totally engulfed in flames and smoke.
- Fire starts bright but will quickly turn the room pitch black from releasing smoke and toxic gases. It is important to be familiar with your surroundings and evacuation routes!



### Fire Safety Tips

- An important fire safety tip is to look for and eliminate any potential fire hazards before they become a reality!
- Know where pull stations and extinguishers are located.
- Time is the biggest enemy, get out of the building!
- If there is a fire, pull the nearest fire alarm if possible, if not, call for help from a safe location outside.
- If smoke is present stay as low to the ground as possible.
- If safe to do so close all doors and windows behind you as you leave the building.
- Don't use the elevator for evacuation because the shaft can act as a chimney. Elevators also present an entrapment hazard if they fail.
- Never return to a burning building. Even if an animal or person is trapped in the fire do not re-enter a burning structure!

### Group Discussion Topics

- Identify all "high risk" areas in the building.
  - Be familiar with the nearest fire extinguishers, pull stations, and your buildings primary and secondary evacuation routes?
  - Can these areas be modified to eliminate or lessen the potential risk?
- Most fires occur between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Brainstorm what causes this and how you could address these issues.
- Identify if anyone has seen any close calls or fires during their tenure. How were those situations handled, good or bad?
- List any unanswered fire safety questions or concerns that you may have and submit to the Safety Director for assistance.

### Jobsite

- Good housekeeping helps prevent fires. Make regular inspection for fire hazards and remove debris from hot work areas. Make sure that flammable liquids are stored in their proper containers and in the proper storage area.
- Make sure that evacuation routes are known by all workers and kept clear of obstructions.
- Make sure flammable materials, especially liquids and gases, are stored away from potential sources of heat.
- Allow only approved gasoline cans for dispensing flammable liquids including those for fueling small engines or vehicle engines.
- Do not permit fueling of any engine when it is running or is still hot.
- Never allow gasoline to be used as a solvent, degreaser, or cleaner.
- Oily, greasy debris should be stored only in metal containers with tightly closed lids.

