Onsite Fire Risk Reduction Methods

Marc Rivard, PE, SE
WoodWorks
Construction Fire Safety

• Construction Fire Safety is not a new concept
• Issue is not lack of codes that address this
• Issue is lack of enforcement & lack of compliance
• Construction Fire Safety necessitates functioning as a team, upholding a higher level of accountability, compliance & enforcement

• What resources are available to assist with this?
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Our Mission

The mission of this website is to provide background information to both public and private sector organizations regarding how to reduce the frequency and severity of fires during construction. This site identifies many best management practices that were collected during a literature search.

Recently Posted

CFSP Introduction
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Collaborative Effort of:

- American Wood Council
- Industry Based Stakeholders Group
- FireForceOne (fire protection consultant)

Goal:

- Provide information to public & private sector organizations regarding how to reduce the frequency and severity of fires during construction
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Builds on existing code requirements to add guidance, based on the premise:

Fire is No Accident

Information can be incorporated in:
- Fire Protection Plan
- Safe Work Methods
- Hot Work Permit System
- Fire Protection Policy & Procedures
Construction Fire Safety Practices

7 Short Videos, Discuss:
• Generating & Enforcing a Fire Protection Plan
• Hot Work Best Practices (Welding, Soldering)
• Fire Department as a Partner
• Clean Job Site
• Job Site Security
• More
Fire Protection Plan

Some Jurisdictions Provide FPP Templates

General Safety Guidelines Include:

• Fire safety is everyone’s responsibility
• Provide fire safety orientation & training for all on site, including sub-contactors
• Report fire hazards immediately
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Fire is No Accident: **No Smoking on Job Site**

- Many utilize a zero-tolerance policy: one strike and you’re out
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Fire is No Accident: **Clean Construction Site**
- Waste from drilling for MEP, cutting wood (sawdust, wood chips) should be cleaned immediately
  - Can create significant fire load
- Safely secure flammable liquids
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Fire is No Accident: Provide Requirements for
• On-Site food preparation equipment
• Proper regulation of temporary heating equipment
• Proper use & maintenance of construction equipment
Hot Work Best Practices

Hot Work Permitting System

- Identifies where each day’s hot work is taking place
- Allows site supervisor, field personnel & security personnel to readily identify key areas
Hot Work Best Practices

Maintain hot work watchman

- Located adjacent to any hot work taking place
- Armed with fire extinguisher, looking to spot any sparks, etc. from hot work
- Check area after hot work is complete
Site Security & Safety

- Off-hours more prone to vandalism, arson
- Should plan walk-through of entire building, especially in areas of that day’s hot work
- Physical presence & video surveillance are key
- Proper fencing, locks, other security measures as necessary to prevent unauthorized access
Construction Fire Safety Practices

Stop Fire Before it Starts
• Enforce & Maintain Code Requirements for Construction Site Fire Safety
• Generate & Follow Fire Protection Plan
• Involve Fire Service as a Key Partner
• Open Communication
• A Fire-Free Project is in Everyone’s Best Interest
Additional Resources: WoodAware.com

- Wood products primer guide with specific fire performance & fire service interaction
- Info on adhesives, smoke toxicity, charring & more
Additional Resources: ModernFireFighting.com

- Provides information for fire service to educate on reaction of different building materials in fire events to enhance situational awareness & tactical preparedness
- Collaborative effort of US Fire Administration, AWC & Fireforceone
Questions?

This concludes The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems Course

Marc Rivard, PE, SE
WoodWorks
617.997.3890
marc.rivard@woodworks.org
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