

Oct. 6, 2021



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All Sealants, Inc.

# Select Edition

Week of 10/4/2021

## Fight Fire with Prevention and Protection

Fires are preventable. Unfortunately, every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the U.S. Last year, 3900 people lost their lives and another 17,785 people were injured due to fires. Property loss caused by fires was estimated at 9.8 billion (that's billion with a "b") dollars.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, construction site fires cause more damage than fires generally, possibly because construction sites have little protection from fire—such as smoke alarms and sprinklers. Firefighters are more likely to be injured on construction sites since they are more likely to fall, slip, or be struck by an object like debris or construction materials. Today we'll focus on fire prevention and protection. Let's think about how to apply that knowledge both today and everyday.

**Fire prevention** refers primarily to methods and practices used to prevent fires. Workplace fires can occur due to electricity, chemicals, flammable liquids, compressed gases, poor housekeeping, welding, cutting, and smoking. What steps can you take to prevent fires on a construction site? First, you can observe and follow posted signs and placards. If a sign reads "No Smoking," then smoking is prohibited in the area. Store flammable liquids safely to reduce fire hazards. Store chemicals according to the manufacturers' recommendations. Don't overload electrical circuits and make sure you use the right size and type of extension cord

for the task. Keep clutter, empty cardboard boxes, and other combustible materials in trash containers. Dispose of smoking materials properly. Never flick a cigarette butt anywhere around a construction site. Store oily rags in approved containers and dispose of them promptly.

**Fire protection** involves reducing danger to people and property by detecting, extinguishing, or containing fires. Fire protection on a construction site includes having the appropriate fire extinguishers mounted near areas where they might be used. They should be kept free from obstructions. All extinguishers must be inspected for general wear and to insure they are fully charged. Learn how to use fire extinguishers and remember that only trained and properly equipped employees should attempt to fight fires. Stay informed of your employer's emergency procedures. Always know two ways to get out of your work area. In case of a fire, sound the alarm to alert your co-workers to get out of harm's way; then make sure you call 911 immediately to get professional help on the way.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**When the weather gets colder, the use of portable heaters increases.**  
**Make sure heaters are set up properly and kept away from flammable or combustible materials.**

### NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:  
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S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:  
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REVIEWED SDS # \_\_\_\_\_ SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.*