



## SITE SAFETY MEETING - TOOL BOX TALK

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# *Construction Fire Hazards*

### **Fire Prevention Program**

How long has it been since you have updated your fire prevention program? Even more important: Do you have a fire prevention program?

Fire prevention and protection are something that OSHA is also looking for (29 CFR 1926 Subpart F).

A fire prevention program does not need to be sophisticated. In fact, it can be rather simple. Here are some key locations and systems that need to be checked on a regular basis:

- Heating devices (don't forget the permanent building systems)
- Electrical wiring and equipment
- Site storage of flammable liquids and materials
- Welding operations, especially overhead welding and cutting
- Policies prohibiting burning refuse on site
- Internal combustion engines, including exhaust sparks and fuel supplies

### **Combustible Materials**

When buildings under construction approach completion of the shell erection, the specialty trade contractors come in. With them come the packaging, finishes, and services, causing increased fuel loading. Here are some things to watch for:

- Housekeeping is critical; remove debris as soon as possible.
- Establish a "No Smoking" policy, and enforce it. Post "No Smoking" signs.
- Provide a specific eating area with waste receptacles.
- Never allow oily rags to accumulate, especially in confined, unventilated areas.
- Provide metal containers with self-closing lids for disposal of oily rags and similar materials.
- Keep the jobsite from looking like a poorly managed landfill.
- Never store slaked lime where it can become moist; when damp, it becomes a fire hazard.

The risk of fire on the construction site will vary with the type of construction. During shell erection, a structural steel building with non-combustible curtain walls will have a lower fuel load than a wood frame building. For example, during shell erection, a frame building becomes a vertical kindling pile before the gypsum board goes in; the potential for fire must be considered accordingly. Work to identify problem areas and develop a simple and effective program for fire prevention.

## Questions to start discussion

1. What are some key locations and systems on site that should be checked for fire hazards on a regular basis?
2. What are examples of safety hazards can be created as a result of your work?
3. When should non-combustible curtain walls be used on a construction site?
4. What are some safety hazards that you can identify on your site today?

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### Meeting Notes:

Employee Comments / Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Safety issues to be addressed on the job: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Training Record:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jobsite: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Name	Emp #	Signature	Employee Name	Emp #	Signature
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**Tool Box Talks** are employee safety meetings designed to serve as 15 minute on-site training sessions focused on key topics relative to your work.

Site superintendents or foremen are responsible for holding meetings each week usually during a morning break. This important segment of your general safety program encourages open discussion on the topic of the week and allows employees to share their experiences about accidents and safe or unsafe work practices. Recordkeeping is mandatory and all involved must sign off on each session.

Topics for your company could include: electrical safety, excavation and trenching safety, fall protection, scaffold safety, stairway and ladder safety, hazard communication, fire safety, personal protective equipment, tool safety, materials handling, etc.

Sample Tool Box Talks are provided compliments of the Safety Committee of the Hartford County Homebuilders Association. For more information on Tool Box Talks contact The HBA office 860 563-4212. *Tool Box Safety Talks* can be purchased from the National Association of Homebuilders 1-800 368-5242, [www.nahb.com](http://www.nahb.com) or may be available through your business insurance provider.

**BUILD SAFELY – THINK SAFETY**