



# TAILGATE SAFETY

## FIRE SAFETY AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE

Statistics indicate that there are around 11 construction fires every day. Not only can people be killed or injured, but fires can also create physical and financial damage that can be devastating to those involved.

### **Fire Facts:**

- 60% of all fires are preventable
- Most fires are caused by unsafe acts of people
- 23% of fires are caused by careless smoking and match-handling habits

### **Major causes of fire at the worksite:**

- Misuse of electrical equipment
- Faulty equipment
- Failure to follow MSDS and label warnings
- Mishandling of flammable liquids
- Welding and brazing
- Poor housekeeping

Most construction fires have simple causes and can be dealt with by taking simple precautions. Following are some important areas to take into consideration:

- Make sure that fire extinguishers are available and can be easily accessed.
- After completion of construction tasks, check the worksite area for signs of smoldering.
- Keep worksite clear of debris.
- Clear away dry foliage, if possible.
- Watch for rocks and other debris that could create sparks if struck by equipment.
- Use proper waste disposal containers for rags and other flammable debris.
- Keep all flammable and combustible materials out of direct sunlight and away from potential heat sources. Flammable and combustible materials should be stored in steel containers.
- Only smoke in designated areas.
- Keep equipment clean from build-up of oil, grease, and other fluids.
- Make sure LPG cylinders and other flammable materials are properly stored.
- Make sure LPG equipment and fittings are properly maintained. Leaks can be identified by hissing, smell or using soapy water, but never with a naked flame.
- Follow all safety precautions for specific operations (i.e. welding, cutting).

**Training Tips:** a) Outline procedures for fire prevention at jobsite b) Make sure all employees know where fire extinguisher(s) are located c) Outline your “smoking allowed” areas.



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