

## PREVENTING FIRES

Fires can be a friend or a foe. They can play the role of a hero or a villain. But whichever role is played, **FIRE** commands respect.

### What causes fire?

Fires are only possible when 1, 2 and 3 are combined in the fire triangle.

1. fuel (wood, paper, gas, oil, etc.),
2. heat (ignition source), and
3. oxygen



**Think of fire as a three-legged stool. If one of the legs is removed, the stool will not stand. If one of the components of the fire triangle is removed there is no fire.**

**Some of the most common fires are caused by:**

- Improperly used or maintained electrical equipment, including lighting
- Poor housekeeping
- Improper use or storage of flammable liquids
- Careless use of space heaters

### Be aware of the Don'ts

- ✓ Don't use temporary wiring or extension cords that are in bad shape.
- ✓ Don't overload motors, circuits, and outlets.
- ✓ Don't leave heating equipment or machinery running unattended or overnight.
- ✓ Don't dispose of oily rags and combustible materials in the regular trash.
- ✓ Don't use flammable materials near source of ignition.
- ✓ Don't store oxygen cylinders near combustible materials.

### Be aware of the Do's

- ✓ DO replace wires when insulation gets frayed or worn.
- ✓ DO use the correct fuse for the job or equipment.
- ✓ DO check the ground connection to ensure a safe path.
- ✓ DO keep combustibles away from lights and machinery.



- ✓ DO use good ventilation.
- ✓ DO store oily rags in a covered metal container.
- ✓ DO clean up spills and leaks quickly.
- ✓ DO keep passageways and fire exits clear.

### **Fire Extinguisher Tips**

Remember the **PASS**-word

**P- Pull the pin.**

**A- Aim at the base of the fire.**

**S- Squeeze the trigger.**

**S- Sweep the hose side to side.**



*P.S. -- Annual fire extinguisher training is required for school personnel. Please contact your local fire department or the Multi-line program for more information.*

### **Remember:**

Prevention may be the main key to fire control. Housekeeping, appropriate storage of chemicals, proper placement of heaters and readily accessible fire extinguishers are all important steps in the prevention of fires. Fire extinguishers should only be used on **incipient fires**, (a small fire just beginning to burn, or a discovered small fire not involving structural members of a building). Hands-on fire extinguisher training is recommended.

*Reference:*

*29 CFR 1910.38*

*29 CFR 1910.157*

*NFPA 1*

*NFPA 10*

*Uniform Fire Code Volume # 1 and # 2*

*Uniform Building Code Volume #1 and #*