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1926 Subpart F Overview

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

1926 Subpart F

Overview for Subpart F Fire Protection and Prevention

F-1 What are the serious most frequently cited fire hazard violations in descending order?

- A. Transporting or handling flammable liquids in non-approved containers [1926.152(a)(1)].
- B. Failure to have a class 2-A rated fire extinguisher within a 100 feet (30.4 m) of an area where class A fire hazards exist within a building [1926.150(c)(1)(I)]. Another frequent violation related to this one is not having at least one class 2-A rated fire extinguisher on each floor of a multistory building located near the stairway [1926.150(c)(1)(iv)].
- C. Failure of the employer to develop and implement a fire protection program for all phases of work involving employees on the job site [1926.150(a)(1)].
- D. Failure to inspect and maintain portable fire extinguishers to keep them in serviceable condition [1926.150(c)(1)(iii)].
- E. Lack of posting of "no smoking" signs where refueling operations are conducted [1926.152(g)(9)], and where operations which constitute a fire hazard, which commonly will include flammable liquids and flammable gases [1926.151(a)(3)].

F-2 What are some effective control measures that can be used for the serious hazards discussed in F-1?

- A. The importance of developing and implementing a fire protection program, which will be apart of the employer's safety and health program, will help to avoid being unprepared for fire emergencies. This is most important to those contractors that work with easily ignitable materials such as flammable liquids and gases and those that use equipment that depend on liquid or gaseous fuels. Material safety data sheets (MSDS) from your supplier can be used to determine what materials are flammable, and which ones are only combustible or will not burn. Also, the MSDS will tell you which fire extinguishing agent is effective on the specific material if it were to catch on fire.
- B. As part of the program, preplanning for trash and rubbish removal is an important part of preventing fire hazards. Removing accumulations of class A waste materials such as paper, cardboard, wood pallets and packing materials and trash from the work area will help minimize unwanted fires. Also, minimize the spilling of flammable liquids by using approved safety cans or the DOT shipping containers. Approved containers will have a laboratory listing or label recognized by OSHA.
- C. Where fire hazards cannot be removed from the work area, the types of fire extinguishing equipment to be used must match the type of materials being used and the job activities. For class A hazards, OSHA would accept any approved 2-A rated fire extinguisher; a 55-gallon (208 l) open drum of water with 2 fire pails; 100 feet (30.4 m) of 1/2 (1.27cm) inch rubber or plastic garden type hose that can supply at least 5 gallons per minute (0.31 l/s) with a hose stream range of 30 feet (9.1 m) horizontally; or 100 feet (30.4 m) of an approved fire hose system that will deliver 25 gallons or more per minute (1.57 l/s).
- D. Control of ignition sources is also an important component of the program. Bonding and grounding metal containers when transferring flammable liquids; posting "no smoking" signs near fire hazards areas; and using approved lighting for hazardous locations, such as in a confined space where flammable materials are being used, are some examples of good control of ignition sources.