



Preventing Fires at Your Business Location

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2008 U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,451,500 fires. These fires resulted in more than \$15 billion in direct property loss.

We encourage you to use the following information to assist you in taking the necessary precautions to protect your trucking company against fires.

Before a fire starts

Have an emergency fire plan in place, including a warning/communication system to alert employees of a fire, designated evacuation routes and periodic evacuation drills, extinguisher usage training and prevention controls. Regularly review your plan to ensure it is still appropriate for your facility, staff and operations.

Inspect your facility for fire hazards. Conduct a walk-through inspection or ask your local fire department to do so. Correct discovered hazards.

Consider installing a building sprinkler system. If a sprinkler system is already in place, inspect and test it on a regular basis.

Provide the appropriate number and type of fire extinguishers for the premises and each truck. Train employees how to use them. Provide periodic refresher training.

Consider which operations or processes in your workplace may require special fire safeguards. Pay special attention to truck repair operations, fueling facilities, chemical storage areas, etc. Be sure proper controls are in place and employees are trained on safeguards.

Establish housekeeping rules in your workplace, including frequent cleaning, prompt waste disposal and proper material handling.

Enforce a "no smoking" policy. If smoking is allowed, restrict it to posted safe areas and provide receptacles for disposal.

Establish a preventive maintenance schedule to keep equipment and operations running safely.

Consider using infrared testing of equipment and electrical systems to detect potential problems.

Identify and mark all utility shutoffs so electrical power, gas or water can be turned off quickly by fire responders or your own personnel.

During a fire

Immediately contact the fire department.

Follow your emergency fire plan and evacuate the building. Account for all employees, visitors and customers.

If the fire is small, allow trained employees to extinguish the fire. Follow the fire department's instructions upon arrival.

After a fire is extinguished

Contact your insurance company.

Take steps to prevent additional loss.

Keep employees informed on repair and start-up plans.

Contact TEC Insurance today to learn more about risk management and reduction.

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TEC Insurance wants to help you protect the assets that contribute to your success. Be diligent in auditing and retaining driver logs. Your attention to safety will minimize loss and help reduce insurance costs.

See our web site at www.tecinsurance.net for more information.

This document contains general information on reducing risk. Always consult proper authorities and your legal counsel as appropriate.

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