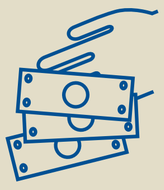
Extinguish Factory Fire Risks

Help prevent injuries, loss of life and production downtime.

Fire's Impact on Factory Workers:

Potential for injury or death



Potential lost wages from a factory shutdown

3 Common Causes of Factory Fires:

Hot Work

- ☐ **Think Twice:**
  Don't use hot methods if cold methods will suffice.
- ☐ **Prepare for Hot Work:**
  Remove combustible and flammable materials and liquids, or place them at least 35 to 50 feet away from work area.
- ☐ **Ventilate Flammable Vapors:**
  Flush out storage tanks and process vessels. Verify with a gas detector that flammable vapors are absent from the air.
- ☐ **Clean or Cover:**
  Wet down any combustible floors, walls or roofs, or cover them with metal shields or fire resistant tarps.
- ☐ **Enlist a Fire Watch:**
  Designate fire watches during hot work, during any breaks and following completion of hot work for 30 to 60 minutes.

Combustible Dust

- ☐ **Repair Equipment:**
  Shut down and immediately repair any equipment or process producing a dust cloud.
- ☐ **Minimize Dust:**
  Dust accumulation should not exceed 1/32 of an inch.
- ☐ **Clean with Caution:**
  Don't suspend dust into the air while cleaning. Clean dust from production areas using vacuums approved for dust collection. Don't overlook cleaning overhead areas.
- ☐ **Control Static Electricity:**
  Don't operate equipment if ignition sources like static electricity are present. Bond equipment to the ground to minimize static.
- ☐ **Eliminate Risk Areas:**
  Locate relief valves away from dust hazard areas.

Hydraulic Fluid Leaks

- ☐ **Inspect and Align Equipment:**
  Inspect machine hoses and fittings to ensure they are free of leaks. Align equipment parts to minimize excess fluid dripping on surfaces.
- ☐ **Lock Out Machines:**
  Shut off equipment needing repair and bleed off stored energy. Try to start the machine to verify it has been locked correctly.
- ☐ **Housekeeping:**
  Routinely wipe equipment clean to minimize oil build up.
- ☐ **Properly Maintain Hoses:**
  Protect hoses from abrasion. Protect piping and fittings from damage and vibration.
- ☐ **Safely Store Fluid:**
  Store excess hydraulic fluid in liquid storage rooms. Otherwise, make sure fluid is in safety cans or flammable liquid storage cabinets.

> "Fire is the #1 preventable disaster at manufacturing facilities."
>
> Cindy Slubowski, VP, Head of Manufacturing, Zurich

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