

Toolbox Talk

Fire Safety

Fire safety and the precautions to be taken are an integral part of any construction project and the fire risk is likely to change during construction so it is important for everyone to know the procedures to be taken in the event of a fire.



The nature of fire:

The fire triangle shows the three elements that are needed to enable a fire to start;



Fuel; is the combustible material that, given sufficient heat and oxygen, will support combustion. It can be liquid, solid or gas.

Heat; is the ignition source. Every fuel has an ignition temperature.

Oxygen or Air; is there to sustain fire.

The removal of any one of the three elements will extinguish the fire.

Common sources of fire:

- * Hot work, a permit to work will be required
- * flammable liquids and gases
- * material and waste storage
- * electrical installations
- * bonfires
- * plant and equipment operations, particularly during refueling
- * arson
- * discarded smoking materials.



Fire fighting equipment:

Portable fire extinguishers can be used by trained volunteers to aid escape and minimise loss and damage as the result of a fire.

Fire blankets can be used to deal with small contained fires, such as tea-making facilities, frying pans.

Toolbox Talk

Fire Safety (contd)



What you need to know:






Make sure you know where the fire assembly points and fire extinguishers are, both on site and at the accommodation.

Make sure you know the procedure for sounding a fire alarm.

Identify your safe route from your point of work and the assembly point.



Colour coding of fire extinguishers:

Extinguishing medium	Water; for wood, textile and solid material fires	Foam; for liquid fires	Powder; for liquid and electrical fires Specialist dry powder; for metal fires	Carbon dioxide; for wood, paper, textiles, liquid and electrical fires	Wet chemical; for wood, paper, textile, cooking oil and solid material fires
Colour of panel	Red 	Cream 	Blue 	Black 	Yellow 
Where not to use	Do not use on liquid, electrical or metal fires	Do not use on electrical or metal fires	Note; check for M28 or L2 text printed on extinguisher to confirm that it is suitable for metal fires	Do not use on metal fires	Do not use on liquid, gas or electrical fires