

>> TOOLBOX TALK - Fire Prevention and Control

In addition to energized electrical equipment (such as generators, power tools, power lines, etc.) there are many sources/materials regularly encountered in the construction industry that pose fire hazards. They can be flammable, combustible or explosive and can be solids, liquids or gas (ex. sawdust, wood chips, paper, plastics, cleaning solvents, gasoline, etc.).

A fire will start whenever any flammable or combustible material (referred to as '**fuel**') comes in contact with an ignition source (referred to as '**heat**') while in the presence of an oxidizer, such as '**oxygen**' thus causing a '**chain reaction**'. The ignition source (i.e., '**heat**') could be something as simple as a spark, static electricity, furnaces, welding, cigarettes, heating elements, open flame etc. The fire will continue as long as the four ingredients ('**fuel**', '**heat**', '**oxygen**' and '**chain reaction**') are present, and may or may not result in an explosion.

Fires can start and spread quickly and the hazards can vary considerably so it's important to have fire prevention, detection and control systems that are appropriate for the type and location of work being done.

Things to discuss:

What effects could a serious fire at our worksite have on the workers, the project, the company, the community, and/or the environment? Think about some recent cases in Newfoundland and Labrador and across the country.

What materials are used at our worksite? Are they flammable, combustible or explosive? Are they properly labeled and stored?

Are power tools, extension cords and other electrical equipment inspected regularly to ensure that they are in good condition? For defective equipment do we always follow Lock-out, Tag-out (L.O.T.O.) procedures and remove them from use until/unless they are repaired?

Where are the portable fire extinguishers? Are they rated for the various classifications of fires (A, B, C, D, and/or K) that may be encountered and are they inspected regularly?

Does everyone know how and when to use a portable fire extinguisher? The acronym '**PASS**' is a simple reminder of the safe way to use a portable fire extinguisher (see sidebar).

What is our emergency response plan and where are our muster stations?

For more information on fire prevention and control contact your local fire department or Fire and Emergency Services, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador www.gov.nl.ca/fes/.

Complete and attach Toolbox Talk Meeting Form and process as per company policy.



PASS

Pull the pin.

Aim the extinguisher at the base of the flame.

Squeeze the trigger while holding the extinguisher upright.

Sweep the extinguisher from side to side, covering the base of the fire with the extinguishing agent.

N L C S A



NEWFOUNDLAND
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ASSOCIATION

TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

Date: _____ Project: _____

Supervisor: _____ No. in Crew: _____ No. Attending: _____

Review Last Meeting:

	Names of Attendees (Signature Required)
Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):	
Suggestions Offered:	
Action(s) to be Taken:	
Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:	

Supervisor's Remarks: _____

Signature: _____