

# CONSTRUCTION FIRE PREVENTION

Prevent fires by following proper storage, handling, and housekeeping requirements.

Good housekeeping is key to fire prevention, but poor housekeeping can lead to small fires that get out of control quickly.

- Never let combustible scrap, rubbish, and waste materials accumulate where they can become fuel for a fire.
- Oily rags, wipes, or towels that have been used for cleaning off solvents and residue should be stored in covered metal containers to prevent an ignition source.
- Dispose of combustible wastes and empty all bins at least once a day to avoid a dangerous creation of fire or explosion hazards.
- Weeds and grass in outdoor open yard storage areas must be kept down.
- A procedure for the periodic cleanup of the entire outdoor storage area must be established.

**OSHA Standard 1926.25(b)** *Combustible scrap and debris shall be removed at regular intervals during the course of construction. Safe means shall be provided to facilitate such removal.*

If not stored, moved, handled, or used properly, combustible materials can pose ignition hazards on construction projects.



- Combustible materials must not be piled higher than 20 feet.
- Combustible materials that are stored outdoors cannot be within 10 feet of a building or structure.
- If equipment is being used that is powered by an internal combustion engine, this equipment must be located so that the exhausts are well away from combustible materials.
- Battery-powered lighting equipment, used for or near the storage, handling or use of flammable gases or liquids, must be approved for hazardous locations.

## Discussion

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***Describe how current housekeeping practices help to prevent fires.***

***Is there a good process in place for storing and disposing of combustible wastes?***