

# Howard Talks Tech

## What Can Be Done To Protect Workers From Fire-Related Injury?

After a firm has complied with the provisions of the local fire and building code; fire safety is a matter of providing workers with education and motivating them to learn life-safety procedures. I believe that the following management actions contribute to fire safety;

1. Go beyond minimum life safety code provisions, use reflective arrows, markers, and intelligent exit signs to assist in evacuation.
2. Prepare a written Employee Emergency Action Plan. (29 CFR 1910.38).
3. Prepare a written Fire Prevention Plan. (29 CFR 1910.39).
4. Maintain fire doors & other life safety/ fire compartmentation / suppression equipment.
5. Mandate 'Good Housekeeping' in all work areas & keep egress paths open at all times.
6. Inspect for electrical code violations - leading cause of fires.
7. Purchase safety cabinets and safety cans to store all flammable liquids used on site.
8. Teach the hazards and precautions for the flammable liquids used in the workplace.
9. Teach how to recognize the alarm and evacuate the building in the event of a fire.
10. Have frequent, (at least annually) fire drills. Have observers critique performance.
11. Teach employees the "Drop and Roll" technique for clothing fires.
12. Teach employees first aid and CPR – provide good response equipment and supplies.
13. Teach employees how to correctly use fire blankets, if available – on the floor.
14. Teach basic operating principles for the use of portable suppression equipment.
15. Provide "Flame Resistant" lab coats, uniforms or coveralls to 'at risk' employees.
16. Insist that employees wear Arc-flash rated PPE when performing maintenance tasks.
17. Prohibit smoking except in designated safe areas - second leading cause of fires.
18. Subsidize the purchase of safety equipment for the home, i.e., smoke detectors.
19. Sponsor, "Brown-Bag" lunch discussions about relevant topics, i.e., static, lightning, etc
20. Sponsor awareness programs during Fire Prevention Week (Early October). E.D.I.T.H.

