

FIRE SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

Fire safety in the workplace.

Every day, millions of people go about their daily routine completely unaware of the dangers that an unexpected fire disaster can cause like physical injury, property damage and death.

People need to be prepared in case of a fire emergency. Key to fire safety is practising specific prevention behaviours. Below are some very simple steps you can take to prevent the dangers of fire.

Be prepared.

- Never lock or block fire exits, doorways, halls or stairways. Fire doors provide a way out and slow the spread of fire and smoke. Never leave any fire stairways or doors propped open.
- Learn your building's evacuation plans. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the fire alarm goes off. Plan and practise your escape plan.
- Make sure your building manager displays evacuation routes in high traffic areas like passages.
- Know the sound of your building's fire alarm and display emergency numbers near all telephones.
- Know who is responsible for maintaining the fire safety systems. Make sure nothing blocks these devices and promptly report any sign of damage or malfunction to the building management.

Regularly carry out a fire risk assessment in the workplace by identifying any possible fire dangers and risks;

- Consider people who may be at greater risk.
- Remove or reduce the potential fire risk as much as possible and provide further general precautions to deal with the remaining risk factors.
- Take special measures to make sure there is protection if flammable or explosive materials are used or stored.
- Create a plan to deal with any emergency and in most cases, keep a record of your findings.
- Review and evaluate your findings when necessary.

5 point fire safety risk assessment

1. Identify fire hazards

Sources of ignition.
Sources of fuel.
Sources of oxygen.

2. Identify people at risk

- People in and around the premises.
- People who are at greater risk.

3. Evaluate, remove or reduce and protect premises from risk

- Evaluate the risk of a fire starting.
- Evaluate the risk that a fire poses to people.
- Remove or reduce fire hazards.
- Remove or reduce the risks that a fire poses to people.
- Protect people by providing fire precautions.

4. Record, plan, inform, instruct, and train

- Record any major findings and action you have taken.
- Discuss and work with other responsible people.
- Prepare an emergency plan.
- Inform and instruct relevant people.
- Provide fire safety training.

5. Review

- Review your fire risk assessment regularly.
- Make changes where necessary.

In the event of an emergency

- React immediately. If an alarm sounds and you see smoke, fire or any form of unusual disturbance, immediately exit the building and go to the assembly point.
- Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Notify the fire department immediately if you know of anyone still trapped in the building.

The risk of fire-related death or injury to all South Africans is REAL. PREPARE & SURVIVE!

For more fire safety information please contact your local fire department

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

From your landline:

10177

From your cellphone:

112