



MAFES Dawg Tracks

March 11, 2013



Safety Tips: Avoid General Workplace Hazards



Experts tell us that about 85% of workplace fires are a result of human error and 15% come from equipment fires. So it is reasonable to deduct that fires are a preventable hazard. Workplace hazards result from several different areas including manual problems and some from electrical problems:

Scrap & trash–

Build-up of waste materials, such as paper and other flammable materials are ignitable sources and once started, really make a raging fire.

Dust–

Excesses of dust and powder in the air from wood, plastic, metal, and other operations can cause an explosion if ignited.

Flammable liquids–

Improper handling, storage, or disposals of flammables used in production processes, as a fuel source or for cleaning, are a leading cause of workplace fires.

Combustible materials–

Paper, cardboard, cloth, wood or products made from these materials are combustibles that will cause a fire quickly if mishandled or neglected. Oil-soaked rags and other oil soaked materials can easily catch fire if allowed to be left around, being carelessly handled.

Electrical sources–

Overloaded electrical circuits, outlets, damaged wiring, defective switches, and damaged plugs are all potential causes of electrical fires. Overloaded extension cords and surge protectors, electrical coffeemakers, toaster ovens, space heaters, and other appliances are also potential fire starters.

Machinery–

Fires can be started by poorly maintained equipment, such as: Failed lubrication of shafts or gears on implements, debris and trash collected on harvest equipment or bush hogs, with the debris of pastures and roadways allowed to remain on the deck. This incidentally will speed deterioration of the mower decks.

Smoking–

No smoking policies are in effect everywhere (university properties), but someone will always try to absolve themselves by slipping around and “pulling on a weed.” If a person, and it will always be that one person, to try this throws a partially lit cigarette in the garbage or on a floor, the consequence can be devastating.

If one looks back at these potential fire hazards, it should be a “no-brainer” to alert violators of the possible consequence of potential loss of life and equipment.

CONTROLS FOR THESE HAZARDS-

- Inspect all these areas on a regular scheduled basis, paying special attention to places where fires are most apt to happen.
- Install and require a maintenance and housekeeping program to keep work areas and equipment clean and free of fire hazards.
- Provide charged fire extinguishers in all the areas and on equipment to challenge potential fires as they happen. Periodic checks are required and a F.E. maintenance program should be installed checking periodically to see that they are charged and tagged.
- Store materials safely and keep the storage areas well ventilated and free of ignition sources. In warehouses or store rooms where there are no sprinklers, a minimum of 24 inches space should be allowed from the box to the ceiling. If the area is sprinkled, you can stack to within 18 inches of the ceiling.
- Dispose of waste promptly and properly. A program for emptying trash should be installed and maintained.
- A program of good housekeeping and hygiene would enable the work areas to greatly reduce the potential for a fire as well as lending a positive influence for visitors and guests.
- Make sure that the ventilator systems are working effectively to remove flammable vapors, combustible dusts, and powders from the air.
- Maintain regular scheduled maintenance on all rolling equipment. Maintain the service records so that scheduled maintenance can be performed and the records give the due dates as needed.
- Regularly check all electrical circuits, outlets, wiring, and plugs for defects, and defective wiring.
- Enforce the programs that are recommended to install and practice and offer discipline if they aren't followed. Enforce the no-smoking policy.

Repairs and maintenance should be performed by the qualified technicians that are employed for that reason. However, safety is everyone's responsibility, so we all should be alert to potential hazards and report them to the station's management.

We should be “our brother's keeper,” helping to curb the potential for injury to our employees and to the potential of destruction of equipment

*Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt./Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES/MSU-ES
(662) 566-2201
Excerpts:SafetyDailyAdvisor@nl.blr-news.com
12/13/2012*

**SAFETY DOESN'T SLOW THE
JOB DOWN
ACCIDENTS DO!**

*** **

~THE SAFE WAY IS THE BEST WAY~