

Safety Topic of the Month

Burn/Fire Safety

All information gathered from safetyresources.com and redcross.org

At Work: Thermal, chemical, and electrical burns are common types of burns associated with workplace tasks. Burns are characterized into three classifications:

- **First-degree:** Minimal tissue damage involving the (epidermis) skin layer.
- **Second-degree:** Burns that produce severe pain and swelling to the (dermis) skin layer
- **Third-degree:** Most serious of all burns, involving the (Hypodermis) skin layer causing permanent damage.

Preventing fires in the workplace must be a top priority. The following are ways to help prevent fires from occurring in both the workplace and around the house:

- Good housekeeping: Loose debris is a potential place for a fire to begin.
- Inspect all fire extinguishers each month, ensuring that each extinguisher is fully charged and the safety pin is intact.
- Ensure that Fire Extinguishers are easily accessible.
- Keep all flammable and combustible materials in a designated location and stored in appropriate containers.
- Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in a recognizable area for employees to view at any time when handling chemicals and ascertain which appropriate Personal Protective Equipment is required.
- Store all chemicals correctly according to SDS and manufacturing guidelines.

At Home: The most effective way to protect yourself and your home from fire is to identify and remove fire hazards. 60% of house fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. During a home fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan, that has been practiced regularly, can save lives.

Fire Safety Tips

- If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT, and CALL for help.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms once a month. If they are not working, change the batteries.
- Talk with all household members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan at least twice a year.