



# safety spotlight

## About the National Safety Council

The National Safety Council saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads through leadership, research, education and advocacy. Visit us at [nsc.org](http://nsc.org) for up-to-date industry news, information and tools to take your safety program to the next level.



### Featured Safety Poster



[Tips for Fire Safety at Your Organization](#)

Share this poster with employees and safety team to remind them of what they can do to reduce the chance of injury or death due to fire.

### Featured Webinar



National Fire Prevention Week was established in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which began on Oct. 8, 1871 and leveled more than 17,000 structures. This month's suggested webinar is: [The Great Chicago Fire and Fire Prevention Plans](#).

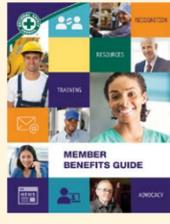
Visit our [Webinar and Audio Library](#) for more great selections to choose from.

### Advance Your Skills as a Safety Leader at the 2016 NSC Congress & Expo



Discover unparalleled resources to improve your safety program and continue on your journey to safety excellence. [Register Today](#)

### Member Benefits Guide



Your [guide](#) for practical solutions to everyday safety challenges.

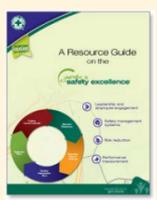
### NSC Safety Awards



Employee engagement is key to a successful safety program! Recognize safety accomplishments with NSC Awards that instill employee pride and earn respect from your customers, community and peers. [Learn more here.](#)

### The Journey to Safety Excellence

Employees take the Journey to Safety Excellence to improve safety culture, reduce incidents and help save lives.



Set your team up for success. [Get more information here.](#)

### Connect With Us!

Get the latest safety news, tips and sharable information.



## October 2016

Welcome to *Safety Spotlight*, an e-newsletter brought to you by the Department of the Interior Office of Occupational Safety and Health, in partnership with the National Safety Council. We hope you find the newsletter of value and we welcome feedback and ideas on topics you'd like to see featured. Please email us at [membershipinfo@nsc.org](mailto:membershipinfo@nsc.org) and put "Department of the Interior feedback" in the subject line.

## 5-Minute Safety Talk

### A Guide to Portable Fire Extinguishers

Does your organization have fire extinguishers? Portable fire extinguishers can be very effective in combating small fires, but only if you know how to use them.



This [5-Minute Safety Talk](#) covers the types of fire extinguishers, proper placement and other fire safety considerations.

## Even a Small Fire Can Rage Out of Control in Minutes



Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15, serves to remind us that fire-safety precautions in the workplace can prevent significant injuries and deaths. According to Injury Facts 2016, businesses lose billions of dollars to fire each year.

Here's how fire deaths and injuries affect various industries\*

Industry	Deaths	Injuries
Government	59	310
Construction	13	130
Manufacturing	12	380
Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting	7	20
Mining	17	60
Retail trade	7	110
Transportation	5	130

No industry is immune to fire, but some require more stringent precautions than others. Here are a few industry-specific materials and processes that can be fire-starters:

- [Dust](#): Sawmills, automobile manufacturers, grain elevators, power plants and even sugar refineries produce powders and dust that can [cause massive explosions](#)
- [Arc welding](#): Hazards include accumulation of toxic gases, showers of sparks and drops of molten metal
- [Paint and flammable liquids](#): Often found on construction sites, and in warehouses and industrial plants, flammable liquids, if not stored properly, can be highly combustible
- [Portable heaters](#) and electrical devices: Used frequently by outdoor workers - but also found in many offices - portable heaters result in hundreds of fires each year

### Do you Have a Fire Prevention Plan?

According to OSHA, a [fire prevention plan](#) must be in writing and available for employees to view if an organization has more than 10 employees.



Here's how you can develop a Fire Prevention Plan:

- List all major fire hazards specific to the organization
- Define handling and storage procedures for hazardous materials
- Identify potential ignition sources and how to control them
- Identify the proper type of fire protection equipment for each hazard
- List procedures to control accumulations of flammable and combustible waste
- List procedures for regular maintenance of safeguards installed on heat-producing equipment
- Identify employees responsible for maintaining equipment and control of fuel source hazards
- Identify an evacuation route and assembly location in case of fire; include names and phone numbers of all employees for a head count after evacuation
- Designate employees to shut down critical operations, perform medical duties or operate fire extinguishers
- Provide fire safety training for all workers and review on a regular basis
- Inspect automatic sprinkler system and fire alarms regularly
- Practice industrial hygiene to prevent buildup of dust and other flammable materials
- Provide the right type of fire extinguisher; different classes are available for different types of fires
- Make sure fire extinguishers are properly located and free from obstructions

Get more information on OSHA's Fire Protection Standards. The National Safety Council offers a [Fire Protection Compliance Training Seminar](#) that will help you comply with the OSHA standards, reduce risks and keep your workers safe.

\* *Injury Facts 2016*, based on 2013 data results

## Bring Safety Home

Home fires caused nearly 3,000 deaths and \$7.2 billion in losses, according to Injury Facts 2016.



Smoke alarms dramatically reduce fatalities, but data shows many people don't pay enough attention to them, according to the National Fire Protection Association. That's why NFPA has focused on smoke alarms for the past three years during [Fire Prevention Week](#), which will be held this year Oct. 9-15. This year's theme, "Don't Wait, Check the Date," is meant to remind families to replace their smoke alarms every 10 years.

A small house fire can rage out of control in minutes. [NSC provides the following tips](#) to keep your home safe from fire:

- Install [both types](#) of smoke alarms (ionization and photoelectric) and carbon monoxide alarms; change the batteries at least once a year in these devices
- [Plan - and practice - an escape route](#) and agree on a meeting place outside of your home; be prepared to assist young children, family members with special needs and pets
- [Know two ways out of every room in the home](#)
- Learn how to use your fire extinguisher
- If your clothes catch on fire, stop, drop and roll
- When evacuating, if door handles are hot, pick an alternate route
- Leave your house and call for help; do not go back to help someone else
- [Follow these safety tips](#) to keep children safe from fire

This [Fire Safety Checklist](#) for homeowners and renters will help ensure your home is as safe as possible.