

Stay safe: fire safety

By safely disposing of your liquid waste, you are helping to protect the natural environment. But it's important to protect yourself and others too.

Fires destroy property, cause injuries, and take lives. Fortunately however, most fires are preventable.

There are lots of things in our workplace that can cause a fire or an explosion.

These include flammable chemicals, petrol, engine oil, grease and packaging materials. So it's important you are aware of the risks and how to control them.

A fire requires three things to start:

- **Heat** - heaters, lighting, naked flames, electrical equipment, cigarettes, matches and anything else that can get very hot or cause sparks.
- **Fuel** - wood, paper, plastic, rubber or foam, loose packaging, waste rubbish, furniture etc.
- **Oxygen** - the air around us.

By removing one of the above elements you will help prevent a fire.

In the workplace, the three major dangers of fire are:

- Smoke inhalation
- Burns
- Injuries from escaping a fire

So it's important to be aware of the risks and how to control them.

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Help avoid fires by following simple rules:

- Don't obstruct heaters or electrical equipment.
- Always check electrical equipment for damage to wires or plugs. Report any defects immediately and don't use damaged items.
- Always switch off electrical equipment after use.
- Maintain good housekeeping and avoid a build-up of rubbish, dust or grease.
- Ensure "hot work" is adequately controlled and monitored.
- Follow a "No Smoking" policy.
- Store hazardous materials appropriately.
- Keep fire exits and escape routes unobstructed at all times.
- Make sure buildings are secure.

Fire evacuation

Make sure you know what the fire alarm sounds like and where the escape routes and assembly points are.

If you hear the fire alarm, stay calm.

Leave immediately and follow the nearest designated fire exit route until you reach the outside assembly point.

Follow instructions given by a fire warden or fire rescue personnel and DO NOT re-enter a building until instructed to do so.

