



Title: Fire and Life Safety for Construction

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Pages 4

PURPOSE: To ensure that fire and life safety risk is minimized during construction, demolition, repair and renovation activities within the Hospital.

SCOPE: Hospital wide. These procedures apply to all employees (including State and Research), outside contractors, and state-managed skilled labor forces.

PROCEDURES:

I. Prevention of ignition

- A. Smoking is strictly prohibited in all Hospital facilities, including in onstruction areas. An increased level of enforcement will be initiated for the prevention of smoking in all construction areas.
- B. Combustible debris must be removed from the worksite, at least daily, by staff performing the project.
- C. Inspections must be conducted, at least daily, in all construction areas by the department or the contractor engaged in the work. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) will inspect on a weekly basis, or as conditions warrant, utilizing the construction site inspection checklist.
- D. Proper storage practices must be adhered to in order to ensure that flammable and combustible liquids are properly stored and safeguarded. Flammable liquid containers, flammable liquid storage cabinets and rag cans will be used wherever required. Flammable gases such as acetylene will be stored outside.
- E. Welding, cutting, brazing, soldering and other hot work requires a hot work permit to be issued prior to starting work. A Fire Watch must be posted who will have the appropriate fire extinguishers available and be trained in their use. The Fire Watch must remain on scene for 30 minutes after the completion of hot work to ensure that there are no subsequent ignitions or rekindles. Fire suppression systems will be in service during all hot work operations.
- F. Electrical tools, extension cord lights grinding wheels or any spark producing devices are not to be used where flammable liquids are used or stored.

- G. Temporary buildings, trailers, and material storage layout must be arranged so that they do not create a fire exposure to existing facilities or block any access routes for firefighters and their equipment. The location of these facilities will be approved prior to placing them on-site.
- H. Temporary structures shall not be constructed inside buildings under construction or renovation.

II. Permitting

- A. All construction, demolition and renovation projects require a construction permit issued by Facilities.
- B. All construction, demolition and renovation projects, which require a construction permit, are to be reviewed by EH&S for compliance with all applicable safety, health, fire and environmental codes, standards and regulations.
- C. A Construction Design Review Protocol Form will be completed by a qualified EH&S representative in each case and will be quality checked by an EH&S Manager.
- D. No construction, demolition or renovation project is to be started without the requisite construction permit and without EH&S approval. If such a project is initiated inappropriately, notification should be made to the responsible Facilities, Physical Plant or Research Construction representative and the project shall be interrupted until the proper procedures are initiated.

III. Interim Life Safety Measures

- A. An Interim Life Safety Measure (ILSM) evaluation will be done for each project. Refer to Policy 5-11, Interim Life Safety Measures.
- B. Contractors doing construction in or adjacent to the hospitals facilities will receive fire safety training from EH&S fire marshals, which will be documented. Training will include fire reporting, hot work procedures, an abbreviated hospital fire plan overview, and ILSM requirements.
- C. Fire/smoke walls and partitions will not be breached without sealing the opening with the appropriate fire-rated material being installed. Pipe and communication chases between floors shall have their rated material reapplied anytime communications lines or any other utility is passed between floors.

IV. Fire Control

- A. Where an employee or contractor employee sees a fire prior to the activation of the alarm system, that employee is to sound the alarm and activate the nearest pull station, then dial 321 if using the hospital phone system. If using cell phone, 631-632-3333 will be dialed.
- B. Extinguishers shall be provided in rating and Spacing suitable to the construction activity and NFPA 10.
- C. All fires will be reported, no matter the size. Fires that have been extinguished shall also be reported to EH&S.
- D. Storage and staging may not be placed in mechanical rooms, utility areas or corridors.
- E. If plastic is used, it must be 6 mil flame resistant plastic. The material should be fastened securely to rigid steel or wood frame to prevent contact with an ignition source.

INQUIRIES/REQUESTS: Environmental Health and Safety
L1-059 HSC
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Main Office: 444-6783
FAX: 444-6845

RELATED FORMS: Fire Protection System Impairment Tags
Construction Site Inspection Checklist

RELATED DOCUMENTS: NFPA 10, Portable Fire Extinguishers
Interim Life Safety Measures, Policy 5-11
Welding, Cutting and Brazing, Policy 1-13
Fire Watch, Policy 5-8