

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND  
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Fire Safety is up to You

Each year thousands of people are injured or killed in workplace fires. Many of these fires can be prevented by being more careful and knowing how to spot fire hazards.

Fatal injuries involving fires and explosions resulted in 148 occupational fatalities in 2013. That, coupled with the threat of fire to business organizations and buildings, demands that all business owners and safety professionals avoid having a fire emergency.

## Common Causes of Workplace Fires-

- ~Smoking
- ~Poor housekeeping
- ~Faulty Electrical Equipment
- ~Overloaded circuits
- ~Chemical Reactions

## Tips for Fire Prevention-

- ✓ Don't smoke near paper, wood, hay, flammable liquids or other materials that could easily burn. Be careful where you discard your tobacco butts and matches. Be sure that they are out. Smoking is no longer allowed on campus.
- ✓ Keep your work areas clean. Use the proper trash containers. Don't leave trash, oily rags, packing materials or other combustible materials on the floor or ground. Do not block fire exits.
- ✓ Be on the lookout for such potential fire hazards like frayed electrical cords, overloaded circuits, equipment or tools that spark or smoke and spilled chemicals. Immediately report any hazards or potential hazards to your supervisor.
- ✓ Store chemicals in their correct containers and make sure that the lids are on tightly. Refrain from using paint or other flammable liquids in areas with poor ventilation. Remember that some chemicals give off vapors that can easily ignite.
- ✓ Check the labeling and material safety data sheets (MSDS) of the chemicals that you work with. Know which ones are flammable and whether they can be safely mixed with other chemicals.

## If you Spot Smoke or Flames-

- ✓ Act quickly, but don't panic.
- ✓ Immediately get to safety –yell to your co-workers to do same. If your building has fire alarm pull stations, usually found by the exit doors, activate it.
- ✓ Notify the fire department. If you aren't able, get someone else to call 911.
- ✓ If you are in an enclosed area and the door feels warm or you see smoke, don't open the door. Look for an alternate exit and yell for help.
- ✓ Stay low if you are escaping from a building in flames/smoke. You will breathe in less smoke.

## Other Fire Safety Tips-

- ✓ Know where all the fire extinguishers are located.
- ✓ If you spot a fire extinguisher with the pin missing or seal broken or yellow needle is not in the green area - report this to your supervisor.
- ✓ Wear the appropriate clothing if you're working close to flames or sparks. Check with your supervisor if you are uncertain about the type of clothing that you should wear.
- ✓ Don't try to fight a fire yourself unless:
  - ~you have been properly trained in using the fire extinguisher.
  - ~the fire is small and confined to a small area.
  - ~everyone is safely out of the way.
  - ~you have an escape route.
  - ~the fire department has been notified

## **Do not attempt to fight a chemical fire unless:**

- ✓ The fire department has been notified.
- ✓ You have received specific training in fighting chemical fires.
- ✓ You are wearing the proper personal protective equipment.

**DON'T BE A FOOL <> PRACTICE  
THE SAFETY RULES!!**

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**PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY**

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**WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT**

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Excerpts: [www.qemplers.com](http://www.qemplers.com)

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<http://safetycenter.org/12-tips-to-prevent-workplace-fires>