

Fire Prevention Compliance

Nine subparts of 29 CFR 1910 contain specific fire-prevention standards. [1910.155 through 1910.165, Subpart L](#), is dedicated to Fire Protection, [1910.38\(a\)](#) Emergency Action Plan. The other eight are Subparts E, H, M, N, Q, R, S and Z (See links below).

29 CFR [1910.38\(a\)](#) requires that employers develop a written fire-prevention plan that lists the fire hazards in the workplace and the responsibilities for reducing or handling such hazards. Other regulations cover flammable materials (such as oxygen) and hazardous processes (such as paint spraying).

Among the more common fire safety violations are those dealing with:

- Electrical grounding
- Ignition sources
- Design and construction of storage containers
- Transfer of flammable liquid
- Ventilation of storage areas
- Cleaning of spray areas
- Smoking rules

Management Issues

Specific OSHA requirements vary according to the structure and activity of your workplace, but basically, there are two key management tasks involved in fire prevention and protection.

A system to protect workers from fire. This system must include:

- Proper maintenance and testing of smoke detectors, alarms, sprinklers, hoses, and portable and fixed extinguishers
- Adequate emergency access to, and egress from, the workplace
- Training for all employees in fire-safety equipment
- A written fire-prevention plan if you have more than 11 employees

First response arrangements.

If you decide to use a fire-fighting brigade of your own, OSHA provides detailed regulations. Whether you choose that approach or rely solely on local emergency authorities, you need to establish a close relationship with the local force. Invite them to become familiar with your facility and maintain good communication.

Training Issues

All employees should have training in the following:

- Alarms-locations, sound
- Emergency phone numbers

- Exits, routes, meeting places
- Use and location of fire extinguishers
- When/how/if to attempt to extinguish a fire
- Fire prevention, especially housekeeping and electrical safety

A practice evacuation is the best way to assess how effective your training has been.