

Video Transcript: 5 Tips to Prevent Fires at Auto Shops

Automotive shops are very vulnerable to fires due to flammable or combustible liquids. For example, paint, gasoline, volatile chemicals, and more. To help minimize and eliminate the risk of fires in your automotive shop we have five tips for you.

Tip number one, store material safely.

- Flammable liquids should be kept in sealed containers when not in use and stored in an air-tight metal cabinet or flammable storage room.
- Gas cylinders should be stored away from high traffic areas.
- After using rags with solvent, store them in a sealed container and dispose of them as hazardous waste.
- If rags are used with water-based cleaners, store them in a sealed container and send them to a commercial laundromat.

Tip number two, use electrical equipment properly.

- If wires are frayed or damaged, discontinue use.
- Electrical outlets have cover plates.
- Require all employees to properly clean and maintain all electric tools.
- Regularly inspect and maintain battery charging equipment.

Tip number three, keep the workplace clean.

- Use non-flammable solvents for cleaning. For example, water-based degreasers and concrete floor cleaners)
- Clean the floor regularly to eliminate dust, dirt, oil, and cleanup spills immediately.
- Clean drip pans daily to prevent buildup of flammable liquids.
- Keep equipment, raw materials and scrap out of aisles and doorways.

Tip number four, avoid excessive heat.

- Avoid space heaters, portable lamps or flame sources near spray painting, welding, oil, and gas cylinders.
- Enforce no smoking rules at the facility.

Tip number five, develop a fire prevention program.

- Have all employees trained in chemical hazard and safety.
- Inform workers of the potential fire hazards of their jobs and plan procedures.
- Create a material safety data sheet for all toxic chemicals.
- Include weekly facility inspections, daily housekeeping, cleanup duties, and regular maintenance of HVAC and fire protection systems.
- Include procedures for controlling workplace ignition sources such as smoking, welding and burning.
- Training all employees on proper usage of fire extinguishers.
- Implement a fire alarm system.
- Include steps for evacuation and schedule drills.

We hope these tips will help you prevent fires in your automotive shops.

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