



FIRE SAFETY AT CONSTRUCTION SITES

Recently, a spate of fire incidents have occurred at construction sites, resulting in property damage. Various works activities are carried out in the construction sites that may cause fire incidents, affecting the safety of workers and the public nearby. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Sparks generated during hot works accidentally ignite other combustible materials.
2. Electrical overload or short circuit causes fire.
3. Flammable or combustible materials are not properly stored.
4. Workers left unextinguished cigarette butts.
5. Lack of fire protection system due to the non-completion of fire service installations / or improper maintenance.

Critical Control Measures

1. Implement the "Hot Work Permit System" to ensure that appropriate risk assessments are conducted and required safety measures are implemented before work, such as erecting barriers to prevent the wind from blowing sparks onto the combustible materials, provide site fire hose for emergency use, and conduct checking to ensure no spark left after work.
2. Maintain good housekeeping and store flammable materials properly.
3. Do not store dangerous goods that exceed their exempted quantities in licensed dangerous goods, e.g. acetylene and oxygen.
4. Smoking is prohibited in construction sites, or allowed only in the designated smoking areas.
5. Conduct regular checking on electrical circuit and installation.
6. Provision of sufficient fire detection equipment, fire alarm systems and fire extinguishers.
7. Appoint fire marshal to conduct daily patrol and regular fire drills.
8. Clearly define escape route with regular review.
9. Adopt appropriate Smart Site Safety System (4S) to strengthen the monitoring to the fire risks, e.g. Smart Smoke Detecting System or Temperature Monitoring System.

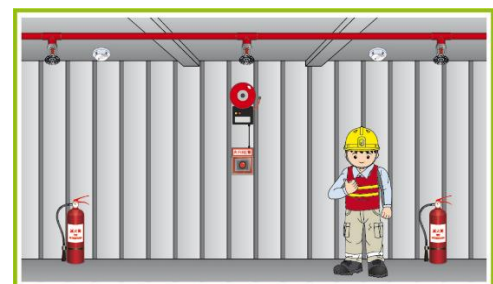


Please click the above image to watch a video regarding a fire incident occurred at a construction site in Tseung Kwan O on 3 July 2024.

Source: HK01
(Chinese Version Only)



Maintain good housekeeping and store flammable materials properly



Provision of sufficient fire detection equipment, fire alarm systems and fire extinguishers



SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

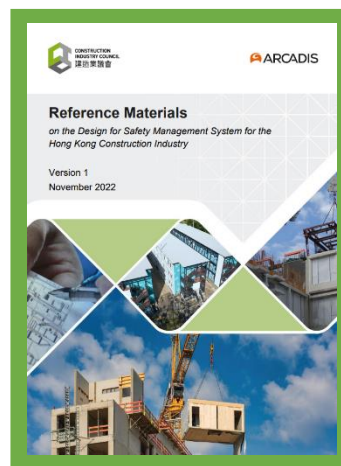
What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce the hot works and the amount of flammable materials stored in the construction site; and properly plan the material storages in the construction site.
- During the construction stage, construction team should formulate and implement an effective fire prevention plan, properly manage the site housekeeping, regularly inspect electrical equipment to ensure that all are in good condition, provide adequate firefighting equipment, and conduct regular fire drills to ensure that workers are familiar with the emergency procedures.
- The work team shall check and ensure that no residual fire risks left at their responsible areas by end of shift.
- Workers shall follow the established fire prevention measures. If potential fire risks are identified, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference information for sharing



Reference Material on Safety Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders in the Hong Kong Construction Industry



Reference Materials on the Design for Safety Management System for the Hong Kong Construction Industry



Poster – Fire Prevention

 **Please Click the Image**



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