

# SAFETY FLASH



## *Construction Fires Cause Major Damage*

U.S fire departments respond to an estimated 3,750 fires in structures under construction each year, 2,560 fires in structures undergoing major renovation, and another 2,130 in structures being demolished. Fires in structures under construction were associated with 5 civilian deaths, 51 civilian injuries, and \$172 million in direct property damage per year. Fires in structures undergoing major renovation were associated with annual averages of 4 civilian deaths, 65 civilian injuries, and \$108 million in direct property damages. Fires in structures being demolished were associated with 4 civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$30 million in direct property damages annually from 2010-2014.



## *Haselden Fire Prevention*

Many, if not all, construction fires can be eliminated with proper fire prevention programs and policies. Most importantly, housekeeping must be maintained and all trash should be cleared from buildings at least daily, and work areas should be maintained free of accumulated debris. Hot work permits are required by Haselden for any hot work activities. Our program also requires a fire watch to be established. Inspect the work area (around, behind, and below) to ensure sparks, molten metal, or hot slag will not fall on workers, combustible or flammable materials, or gas hoses. Fire extinguishers are required within 20ft of all hot work operations and at a minimum must be a 10lb ABC extinguisher. Combustible materials must be 35ft from the hot work or must be covered by fire blankets. All flammables must be relocated at least 50ft from the hot work operation or the hot work must be relocated.

## **Best Practices!**

- Always maintain good housekeeping practices to eliminate the potential for a fire to start.
- Manage the location and storage of flammable and combustible materials.
- Implement and manage the Haselden hot work permit process and require the use of a fire watch for hot work activities.
- Maintain project access, stairways, and walkways to ensure they stay open and allow for easy passage in the event of an emergency.
- Maintain two sources of access and egress in and out of buildings under construction.
- Practice emergency actions plans on a regular basis and adjust those plans as needed when conditions warrant.
- Provide monthly inspected fire extinguishers for every 3,000sq ft. Travel distance to the nearest extinguisher is not to exceed 100 ft.