



Safety Short
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Fire Safety

With springtime coming on fast and the snow still on the ground, many of us are working in the shop repairing equipment, building new projects, restoring our favorite car, truck, or tractor, or just goofing off to stave off cabin fever. It's really easy to let the trash cans get full or leave that big wad of twine out of the pickup take up floor space, or the pan with the used oil in it... These are combustibles and can readily catch fire. Shop work usually involves welding, grinding, heat lamps, and space heaters.

Take a look around your work areas and clean up the flammable and combustible materials. It only takes a spark from a grinder, a carelessly discarded cigarette, or a piece of hot metal from the cutting torch to ignite these items. Many times a fire can smolder for a period of time before flaming. Check around before leaving for possible ignition sources.

Aerosol cans of paint, spray lubes, gas cans, are all flammable and should be in a steel cabinet away from heat sources. I know you all have at least 1, 10 pound or 20 pound ABC fire extinguisher on hand, right. If you don't have one or two, get some, if you have them, check regularly to make sure they are fully charged. It doesn't cost much to get them recharged and serviced and that should be done on an annual basis. Make sure they are accessible and mounted near the door of your shop. If you need information on extinguisher servicing give us a call, ours are checked annually by professionals, and monthly by employees.

In case of a fire remember the PASS system for using a fire extinguisher, Pull the pin in the handle, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze the handle, and Sweep from side to side. If the fire is getting too big, get out!!

These rules are the same for your house, having your house burn in the winter or any time would be a devastating loss. Finally be careful with smoking, it is the number one source of accidental fires.

Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable winter.
Lee