

Fire Prevention

The fire risk on construction sites can vary based on the phase and type of project. During the excavation phase, the risk of fire is low. However, as the project progresses, the risk of fire increases.

Projects typically store large amounts of materials (often combustible) on-site for various periods, depending on the project schedule. If not controlled, trash and debris generated from the construction process may be a fire hazard. Fuels and chemicals are also stored at the job site for various tasks. Wood frame structures pose a higher fire risk than steel frame structures. The construction process itself often includes hot work.

Controlling these exposures is vital to reduce the risk of fire on the job site and the risk of the fire spreading to adjacent properties. Large wood frame and tall timber buildings are a new trend in the industry. Perform a full fire exposure analysis on these materials to ensure they will not destroy neighboring buildings if they catch on fire during construction (e.g., adequate separation, adequate fire barrier walls, and installing non-combustible siding during framing if an adjacent exposure exists).

There are many examples of fire exposures at construction sites, and identifying them and developing a plan for each is essential. Controls include:

- Development of a fire safety program that meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 241 – Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations pre-fire plan and emergency response training, including:
 - Fire extinguisher training
 - Fire drills
- Halogen and other high-intensity lights are identified to prevent fire hazards with combustible materials
- Physical and fire separation and protection measures for adjacent third-party properties
- Adequate temporary fire protection, including fire extinguishers, temporary standpipes, fire department access and coordination. All temporary fire protection measures should be in accordance with local authorities, OSHA, and NFPA guidelines
- Hot work permit program
- Smoking controls

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: [fwcruminsurance.com](https://www.fwcruminsurance.com)