

Fire Prevention

October 9-15 is [National Fire Prevention Week](#), and a great time to discuss how to prevent fires. Fires can occur anywhere at any time, and they are one of the most dangerous workplace hazards. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports an average of more than 200 workplace fires per day, and an average of more than 5,000 people injured by workplace fires annually. Northwestern's [Fire Prevention Program](#) provides guidance on identifying and reducing potential fire hazards on campus to ensure your safety, the safety of your colleagues and community, and the protection of university property.

To prevent fires, you should first understand what is required for a fire to ignite and stay burning. The following properties are needed to start a fire:

Oxygen, which is plentiful in most work areas.

Fuel, such as paper, oil, wood, or chemicals.

Heat, such as a lit cigarette, a lit match, or a lit candle.

Remember, you are responsible for fire emergencies. Stay positive, keep the focus on what can be done to create a safe workplace, instead of focusing on what has gone wrong in the past.



Fire safety in the workplace

Fires can originate from many sources in the workplace and can spread rapidly in the right conditions. Here are some examples of sources of fires in the workplace and how to prevent them:

Welding, cutting, and brazing (e.g., hot work) tasks produce flames or sources of ignition in good never be blocked by equipment or materials.

Learn more: Complete [Fire Extinguisher](#) [Hot Work Permit](#)

Safety at Home