

Could It Happen Here! How Well Are You Trained to Respond to Fires?



A nighttime fire fighting exercise



Controlled burn of Sodium Hydride

The first picture is a nighttime fire fighting training exercise. The second is of a controlled burn of Sodium Hydride with fire suppression material around it, following an incident where this material caught fire.

Here are some things you can do to prevent fire from occurring or to make sure it is handled safely and correctly.

Fire Prevention and Planning

- ☑ Understand possible fire scenarios then know how to report a fire
- ☑ Check bonding and ground wires to prevent static ignition when handling flammables liquids or combustible dusts *{PSID members see incident 422}*
- ☑ Know your emergency routes, locations of emergency shelters and rally points
- ☑ Take fire extinguisher training, yearly if possible
- ☑ Different classes of fires (rubbish, flammables/combustibles, electrical or metals) require different extinguishing materials. Make sure you have the right fire fighting equipment for all potential fires

Responding to Fire

- ☑ Always sound a fire alarm before fighting a fire
- ☑ Call for help and make sure it is coming before fighting a fire
- ☑ Fight fires only if you have been trained to do so
- ☑ Make sure you leave a safe unobstructed path for retreat when fighting a fire
- ☑ "Stop, Drop and Roll" if your clothing or hair catches fire.
- ☑ Make contingency plans and train on handling and disposing of hazardous materials after a fire has occurred, including medical response to hazardous exposures

Look for the new CCPS book "Guidelines for Fire Protection", coming May 2003

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Contact us at ccps@aiiche.org or 212-591-7319.

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