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No Building is Fireproof

October is fire prevention month and this is a good time for all employees to review fire prevention techniques. Fire prevention should be practiced at home as well as on the job.

Fire can strike at home or any workplace, leaving death, injury, property loss and unemployment. Some industries have a higher fire risk because of chemicals or materials kept on site or the nature of the work being performed.

But any place is vulnerable. There is no such thing as a fireproof building. Structural steel and concrete are no haven from fire. It's the material inside that burns-----the furniture, wiring, paper products, floor covering and countless other items. An effective sprinkler system is a good line of defense and so is an effective fire prevention program.

Regular fire drills are an important part of that program. Here are some reminders about running a good fire drill:

- Contact the fire department and security company so they will not respond to a false alarm.
- Tell employees ahead of time about the drill. A surprise drill can trigger health conditions such as heart problems in some employees.
- Make sure that everyone has escaped from the building. If employees don't participate in fire drills have their supervisors counsel them. Have employees assemble at a predetermined point, away from the building, leaving easy access for firefighters and away from possible dangers.
- Meet with the employees right after a fire drill while it is still fresh in their minds. Review what went right and what went wrong.

Most people underestimate the danger of fire because of the way it is portrayed in television and movie dramas. They don't realize the danger

of smoke----which makes the building dark and can quickly render the occupants unconscious. Many times deadly carbon monoxide travels ahead of the smoke. Remember, when you are in smoke, the entire environment will be completely different. You must be made aware of all the dangers involved with smoke and how to protect yourself.

Safety Tip: **A fatal fire is a real possibility in any kind of workplace or home setting. You need to make sure that you know how to prevent fires and what to do if fire occurs. Your life and the lives of your love ones will depend on it. Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detector.**

