

TOOLBOX TALK, July 29th, 2024.

Safety Committee

We're still looking for people who are interested in serving on the Safety Committee. Please let your foreman know or talk to Toby or David if you'd like to join us. Safety Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month to review incidents and make suggestions to improve policies and procedures.

Summer Picnic

Katie has sent out emails to everyone about the company picnic on August 24th at Oaks Park. Please respond quickly to tell her if you're coming and how many people you plan to bring. It's important to be clear about how many ride bracelets you need, because if you measure 48" or taller, and are wearing an under 48" bracelet, you'll be turned away from the ride. So, let us know how many are coming to the picnic and how many 48" or taller or 48" or shorter bracelets you'll need.

Fire on the Job

Recently sparks and slag from a welder started a fire at one of our jobs. A runaway fire in this old wooden structure could have been disastrous. Fortunately, Tom Clark saw what was happening and was able to put the fire out before it went out of control. Quick thinking and quick action probably saved the building from going up in flames and possibly saved lives too.

A couple of lessons from this are to be observant and to be ready to act. In this case Tom found some water to douse the flame, but if he had not been able to find water, it would have been important to know where the nearest fire extinguisher was.

Jobs are required to have fire extinguishers within fifty feet of hot work, but on a chaotic job site it may not be apparent where the extinguishers are. It's a good idea to locate the nearest fire extinguisher and the nearest exit before starting work and checking again when we move to a new area.

A rule of thumb for using a fire extinguisher is to determine if it's possible to put a fire out with the extinguisher we have. Fire extinguishers only last 30 to 45 seconds, so if the fire looks too big, sound a warning, get out and call 911.

When using an extinguisher, remember the **PASS** method:

Pull the Pin

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire

Squeeze the handle, and go in low

Sweep from side to side across the base of the fire

We're not trained fire fighters, so we only use fire extinguishers when we think we can put the fire out or if we need to open a path to an exit. Never turn your back on a fire, and don't let yourself get caught between a fire and the exit.

Even if we put the fire out, always report it. We may think a fire is out, but we don't want to give it a chance to flame up again.

It's better to be prepared than to be surprised, so plan ahead and stay safe.

When should we look for a fire extinguisher?

Who should we report a fire to on this job?

