

# Fire Safety Precautions in Construction Checklist

# Astutis.

Construction sites are particularly susceptible to fire hazards due to the combination of flammable materials and activities that generate heat or sparks such as welding, cutting, drilling etc.

**Identifying and addressing these fire safety hazards is critical to preventing fires and safeguarding workers.**

## Flammable Materials

Many materials used on construction sites, such as wood, plastic sheeting, and chemicals, are highly flammable.

### Causes

These materials can catch fire easily if exposed to sparks, open flames, or high temperatures. All of which, are very common on construction sites.

### Prevention

- Store flammable materials in designated, ventilated areas away from ignition sources.
- Limit the quantity of combustible materials on-site to only when they are required for the day.
- Use fire-retardant materials that meet standards such as BS EN 13501-1:2018 wherever possible.

## Lack of Fire Safety Measures

A lack of proper fire safety planning can exacerbate the risks on construction sites.

### Causes

Failure to implement fire safety measures, such as fire extinguishers, alarms, or escape routes, increases vulnerability.

### Prevention

- Develop a robust fire safety plan as part of the construction phase plan.
- Conduct regular site inspections to ensure compliance.
- Provide fire safety training for all workers.

## Electrical Faults

Temporary electrical setups and faulty wiring can be a major source of fires in the construction industry, especially when external contractors are not properly qualified.

### Causes

Damaged or overloaded wiring, improper connections, and malfunctioning equipment can lead to sparks or overheating.

### Prevention

- Ensure all electrical installations are carried out by qualified electricians.
- Regularly inspect and maintain electrical systems.
- Avoid overloading circuits and use circuit breakers where necessary.



## On-Site Cooking

Cooking on construction sites, particularly in temporary accommodations, poses a significant fire hazard.

### Causes

Open flames, hot appliances, and improper cooking practices can lead to fires.

### Prevention

- Restrict cooking to designated areas equipped with fire-resistant materials and proper ventilation.
- Provide fire extinguishers and train workers on their use.
- Enforce a no-smoking policy in and around the site.



## Arson

Unfortunately, deliberate fire-setting is a significant risk on unsecured construction sites due to the large amount of fuel and ignition sources.

### Causes

Arsonists have previously targeted poorly secured sites, especially those without perimeter fencing or surveillance.

### Prevention

- Install secure fencing and locked gates around the site.
- Use surveillance cameras and employ security personnel during non-working hours.
- Ensure good lighting in all areas to deter intruders.