



Food Manufacture

Health and Safety, COSHH and Fire Awareness

Lesson 6

This course is suitable for everyone working in food manufacture or wanting to work in the industry, it explains the important subjects of health and safety, COSHH and fire awareness

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The factory management make sure the factory is a safe place to work and prevention of fires is a priority.





There are several different causes of fires:

- Deliberate
- Burning waste
- Carelessness e.g. from smoking
- Electrical faults
- Poor housekeeping
- The misuse of electrical installations



There are three things needed for a fire:

1. Ignition source
2. Oxygen e.g. 21% of air
3. Fuel e.g. solid, liquid or gas





There are several consequences of fire:

- Smoke
- Chimney effect e.g. temperature and moisture differences
- Carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide
- Depletion of oxygen
- Heat
- Damage to the building
- Water damage



Factory management do many things to prevent a fire, some of the most important are:

- Safe storage of combustibles
- Good housekeeping
- Staff training
- Electrical equipment maintenance
- No smoking in the factory
- Use of alarm and detection systems



The factory building has:

- A means of escape
- Exits and fire doors
- Smoke alarms
- Emergency lights
- Fitted with fire fighting equipment e.g. fire extinguishers
- Sprinkler systems





Fire exits should be kept clear at all times and fire exit signs should point to where the fire exits are.





A factory is fitted with fire fighting equipment which have easy to follow instructions for use. They are positioned in appropriate easy to use locations.





There are five main different types of fire extinguishers

1. Water (red) used on wood, paper and textiles
2. Foam spray (cream) used on wood, paper, textiles and flammable liquids
3. Dry powder (blue) used on wood, paper, textiles, flammable liquids, flammable gases and electrical contact
4. Carbon dioxide (black) used on flammable liquids and electrical contact
5. Wet chemical (yellow) used on wood, paper, textiles, cooking oils and fats



The correct action to take if there is a fire in the factory:

- Raise the alarm
- Evacuate the building
- Carryout controlled assembly
- Roll call of staff
- Building sweeps





Training on basic fire safety is given to all staff at induction and renewed every year.





Basic fire safety training includes:

- What action to take if a fire is discovered
- How to raise the alarm
- Evacuation procedure
- Fire exit locations
- Fire fighting equipment usage



Regular fire evacuation practices and fire alarm sounding take place to make sure everyone knows what to do in an emergency and that alarms are working correctly.



Revision Activity 6

What is included in basic fire safety training?