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Fire Prevention for New Construction

Buildings under construction are at risk for fire losses, which can result in delays in completion.

Incorporating loss prevention practices throughout the construction period will help ensure fires are avoided and profits are maximized. To prevent fire during new construction consider:

❑ Exposures

Examine nearby exposures for the risk of fire spreading to your construction, considering:

- The distance from any exposures. The greater the distance, the better.
- The construction of neighbouring structures. Frame construction is a higher risk than masonry construction.

If the fire risk is great, consider protection, such as blank masonry walls between your construction and the neighbouring fire risk.

❑ Fire Department Access

Properties should have well-maintained access roads that are clear and wide enough to allow evacuation of the occupants and the simultaneous entry of fire department vehicles.

❑ Prevention and Control

Buildings under construction present unique fire risks that require special attention. It is recommended that a person on-site be assigned the day-to-day responsibility of monitoring the fire prevention and protection activities. In addition to the prevention activities outlined in LP-29 Construction Site

Management, the following are common fire hazards with new construction including:

- Arson
The property should be secured from unauthorized entry as follows:
 - A fence should protect the perimeter of the property.

- All exterior areas of the property should be illuminated.
- Trees and vegetation should be cut back to provide a clear space around the perimeter of the property.
- Combustible materials and trash in yard areas should be properly discarded.

● Electrical Equipment and Wiring

Electrical equipment used in wet areas, such as restrooms and jobsites, should be equipped with ground fault protection. Electrical systems located in areas where solvents are stored, used, or dispensed should be approved for hazardous locations, in accordance with NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*. Temporary electrical wiring and equipment should also comply with the applicable provisions of NFPA 70.

● Dispensing of Fuels

Fires involving liquid-fueled equipment generally result from fuel spillage during refueling operations. Refueling operations should be performed by trained and designated personnel, and only in specified, well-ventilated areas. Smoking is prohibited whenever refueling is being performed.



Knowing your business matters.

- **Compressed Gas**

Compressed gases, including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), might be stored at the site. These cylinders should be stored in a separate area, away from ignition sources and secured to prevent tipping and damage. Storage areas should not be located near exits or stairs, or adjacent to primary egress routes.

- **Lumber**

Lumber used for framing and forms should be stored at separate facilities, preferably outside in a manner that allows for fire fighting equipment access.

- **Fire Protection**

Portable fire fighting equipment should be located throughout the site as necessary. Temporary offices and storerooms often contain important records, parts, or materials and frequently these temporary structures are of combustible construction. Fire alarms, detectors and fire protection features (such as firewalls and doors) should be considered for temporary structures when fire exposures exist.

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Partners In Prevention

At Federated Insurance, we believe Loss Prevention is a critical component of your Risk Management Program. Your Risk Services Coordinator, together with our Loss Prevention Team, is available to assist you in developing security measures appropriate for your business. Working together to reduce your loss exposures protects your bottom line!

For more information, contact your Risk Services Coordinator, our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800-665-1934, or visit our website at www.federated.ca

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