TAILGATE SAFETY TALKS

Smoking/Fire Safety

Our contract specifications, OSHA regulations and New York State Clean Indoor Air Act prohibit smoking near confined spaces, enclosures, and indoors, as well as near flammables and/or combustibles. Smoking is prohibited in these areas for the safety of yourself and others.

In general: All projects must be routinely reviewed to ensure smoking and fire safety compliance with project provisions and project safety and health plans including fire protection plan and emergency telephone numbers. Field offices and bulletin boards must have conspicuously posted emergency telephone numbers. A safety compliance review is to check for fire safety of confined spaces and enclosed spaces with removal of unnecessary combustibles and debris with escape exits provided; “No Smoking” signs posted where combustibles and flammables are stored; fire extinguishers are in place and fully charged; “No Smoking or Open Flames” signs are conspicuously posted near refueling areas, in or near explosive magazines or while explosives are being handled; and no smoking in the field offices or laboratory building.

Also project field offices are to be checked, which includes the following:
1) Field offices are at least 25 feet from flammables, combustible and fire ignition sources.
2) Doors are usable/unblocked, stairways are solid and have hand rails and doorways have visible exit signs
3) Electrical outlets have covers, good wiring, GFCI for outlets near water source or outside, no exposed electrical wires and no extension cords.
4) Fire extinguishers for evacuation meet rating and size requirements and tag indicate routine maintenance is performed.
5) No Smoking in field offices.

Regional Construction Safety Coordinators and Regional Safety and Health Representative can assist a project staff to review projects and field offices for fire safety.

References:

Standard Specification 107-05 (R) Confined Spaces. Confined spaces are defined as any space having limited means of egress, which is subject to the accumulation of toxic or flammable contaminants or has an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Confined spaces include, but are not limited to: sanitary sewers, sanitary manholes and structures, drainage lines and drainage structures, underground utility vaults, enclosed bridge beams and heated enclosures. All personnel required to enter confined spaces shall be instructed as to the nature of the hazards, the necessary precautions and in the use of protective and emergency equipment required.
Fuel-fired heated enclosures are frequently constructed to provide the requirements for winter concrete placement or similar operations. The Contractor shall provide adequate ventilation to maintain acceptable air quality or conduct air quality monitoring when heaters are or have been operating prior to personnel entry. If acceptable air quality cannot be verified, then appropriate respirators shall be worn. No worker shall enter a confined, heated space unless that space can be ventilated or the worker removed from outside the enclosure in the event the worker is overcome by fumes. Particularly during off-shift hours, no worker shall enter an unventilated, heated enclosure unless another worker is present immediately outside the enclosure. All unnecessary combustibles and debris shall be removed from the enclosure and escape exits shall be provided so workers can escape safely if a fire starts, prior to heating.

Standard Specification 107-05 (S) "Fire and Explosion Prevention" The Contractor shall ensure that combustibles do not accumulate. Flammable materials shall be handled and stored as required by OSHA regulations. “No Smoking” signs shall be posted and enforced wherever flammable materials are stored or used. Fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained throughout the site, in accordance with the requirements of 29 CFR 1926, Subpart F. Fires will be considered, as a minimum, a near-miss accident, and therefore shall be reported in accordance with existing reporting requirements.

During refueling, all possible sources of ignition, including, but not limited to sparks, open flames and electrical equipment shall be eliminated. Fuel containers shall be grounded to the tank to prevent static electrical sparks. A "No Smoking or Open Flame" sign shall be posted conspicuously in the vicinity of refueling operations. Cutting and welding equipment shall be stored according to recognized safety standards. Any defective tanks or equipment shall be removed to a safe storage area immediately until repairs are made. When cutting or burning is underway, steps shall be taken to ensure that sparks do not ignite combustibles.

Standard Specification 637- Engineers Office and Laboratory Building
637-2.01 General Construction. Each Engineer's Office or Field Laboratory shall be an approved and weatherproof building or mobile trailer of the type specified in the contract documents. The structure shall have a minimum ceiling height of 2.13 meters and shall be provided with weatherproof windows and weatherproof doors each equipped with adequate locking devices. Each window shall have a minimum area of 0.75 square meters, shall be screened and of a type that will open and close to provide adequate ventilation.

637-2.02 General Requirements for all Engineer's Offices.
A. Lighting. Electric light, non-glare type luminaires to provide a minimum illumination level of 1000 lux at desk height level.
B. Heating and Cooling. Adequate equipment to maintain an ambient air temperature of 21°C ± 3°.
F. Potable Water. From a local municipal water line and/or bottled water with refrigerator unit - hot/cold water.
H. First Aid Kit. The Contractor shall keep the kit properly stocked with appropriate first aid supplies at all times.
I. Toilet. A separately enclosed room, properly ventilated and complying with applicable sanitary codes. The Contractor shall provide all lavatory amenities, necessary paper and soap products, hot and cold running water and a flush-type toilet. Any other toilet will not be acceptable unless as ordered by the Engineer (A.O.B.E.).

L. Fire Extinguisher. Non-toxic dry chemical, fire extinguisher meeting Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., approval for Class A, Class B and Class C fires with a minimum rating of 2A:10B:10C. 1 per room.

29 CFR OSHA 1926.150 – “Fire Prevention”

1926.150(a)(1) The employer shall be responsible for the development of a fire protection program to be followed throughout all phases of the construction and demolition work, and he shall provide for the firefighting equipment as specified in this subpart. As fire hazards occur, there shall be no delay in providing the necessary equipment.

1926.150(c)(1)(i) A fire extinguisher, rated not less than 2A, shall be provided for each 3,000 square feet of the protected building area, or major fraction thereof. Travel distance from any point of the protected area to the nearest fire extinguisher shall not exceed 100 feet.

1926.152(g)(8) There shall be no smoking or open flames in the areas used for fueling, servicing fuel systems for internal combustion engines, receiving or dispensing of flammable or combustible liquids.

1926.900(b) Smoking, firearms, matches, open flame lamps, and other fires, flame or heat producing devices and sparks shall be prohibited in or near explosive magazines or while explosives are being handled, transported or used.

New York State Clean Indoor Air Act
Effective July 24, 2003, the amended New York State Clean Indoor Air Act (Public Health Law, Article 13-E) prohibits smoking in virtually all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. The changes in the Act reflect the state's commitment to ensuring that all workers are protected from secondhand smoke. Localities may continue to adopt and enforce local laws regulating smoking. However, these regulations must be at least as strict as the Clean Indoor Air Act.

The Act states that smoking shall not be permitted and that no person shall smoke in the following indoor areas:
Places of employment;
Bars;
Restaurants;
Enclosed indoor swimming areas;
Public transportation, including all ticketing, boarding and waiting areas; buses, vans, taxicabs and limousines;
All places of employment where services are offered to children;
All schools, including school grounds;
All public and private colleges, universities and other educational and vocational institutions;
General hospitals;
Residential health-care facilities, except separately designated smoking rooms for adult patients;
Commercial establishments used for the purpose of carrying on or exercising any trade, profession, vocation or charitable activity;
All indoor arenas;
Zoos; and
Bingo facilities.

Smoking is permitted in the following areas or businesses:
Private homes and private residences when not used for day care; private automobiles;
Hotel or motel rooms rented to one or more guests;
Retail tobacco businesses (primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and accessories, and the sale of other products is merely incidental);
Membership associations where all duties related to the operation of the association are performed by volunteers who are not compensated in any manner.