



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Inspection Techniques: Smoking Regulations for Fire Safety

No. FP-2011-2 January 11, 2011

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to identify the fire safety requirements for smoking control.

Carelessly discarded cigarettes and other smoking materials remain a leading cause of fires in the United States. The model fire codes give the fire official great latitude in regulating smoking for fire safety. Smoking includes lighted pipes, cigars, cigarettes, or any other type of smoking paraphernalia.

Where smoking is considered a hazard, the code official is authorized to order the owner to post “No Smoking” signs in conspicuous, designated locations where smoking is prohibited. The size, shape, color, and construction of the signs may be determined by the code official. “No Smoking” signs may not be removed, defaced, obscured, or damaged.

When evaluating whether smoking is a hazard, the code official should consider such factors as the presence of flammable or combustible liquids or gases; dried leaves, grass, or other vegetation; waste paper products, boxes, or other combustibles; and landscaping such as mulch or ground bark cover.

If smoking is permitted, there should be an adequate number of noncombustible ashtrays. Again, the code official is authorized to determine the number and placement of ashtrays.

Burning objects may not be discarded in any manner that would create a fire hazard.

Health department regulations also may affect where smoking is prohibited.

For additional information, refer to *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 3, or *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1, Uniform Fire Code*[™], Chapter 10.



These discarded cigarettes are a potential ignition source.



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