Workplace Fires Stats and Facts

FACTS

Common Causes of Fire in the Workplace

1. **Faulty equipment.** Defective electrics such as loose wires, or faulty equipment that can overheat and cause sparks, are common causes of fires in the workplace.
2. **Clutter.** A common fire risk found in many workplaces is a lack of consistent cleaning, leaving the building untidy and cluttered. If the workplace is not cleaned regularly, the build-up of dust and grease a fire risk.
3. **Combustibles on site.** Combustible materials such as paper, wood and cardboard will accumulate in many workplaces, and if allowed to build-up, contribute a significant amount of fuel to any fire that may start.
4. **Human Error.** With many people often using the workplace on a daily basis, human error can be a common factor in the causes of fires. From using equipment incorrectly, not reporting faulty machinery, to even leaving cooking food unattended, accidents occur without the proper training in place.
5. **Arson.** Arson makes up a large percentage of fires caused on business premises and cause devastating consequences to a company. Deterrents such as CCTV and motion-sensor lighting should be installed.
6. **Old Fire Risk Assessments.** When you move into a new office, or a building that was previously occupied, you should always carry out a new fire risk assessment – never leave it to chance and ‘keep the old one’.

STATS

- 24 percent of structural fires at workplaces occur due to electrical issues, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

- Work-related vehicle fires, which account for 9 percent of work-related fires, according to the NFPA.
- In the US, there were 115 victims of fires and explosions in the workplace.
- The typical employee injured by an arc flash requires an 8 to 12-month leave of absence from work to fully heal and recover.
- Fires and explosions are the 3rd most fatal workplace injuries within the oil and gas industry.
- OSHA reports that there are more than 200 workplace fires per day, with more than 5,000 people injured by workplace fires annually.
- Welding torches were involved in one-third (34%) of hot work structure fires.