

# FIRE SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION

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## **GRAND JUNCTION FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION**



If you have any questions or comments regarding the information contained within, or if you need assistance interpreting these requirements, please contact:

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## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

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The International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 33 outlines general fire safety precautions for all structures and all occupancies during construction and demolition operations. In general, these requirements seek to maintain required levels of fire protection, limit fire spread, establish the appropriate operation of equipment and promote prompt response to fire emergencies.

## **GUIDELINES**

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The owner or owner's authorized agent shall be responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of an approved, written Site Safety Plan establishing a fire prevention program at the project site applicable throughout all phases of the construction, repair, alteration or demolition work. The Plan addresses the requirements of Chapter 33 IFC and other applicable portions of the IFC, the duties of staff and staff training requirements. The plan shall be submitted and approved before a building permit is issued. Any changes to the plan shall be submitted for approval.

### **Applicable Codes, Standards, Resources - Free View Website Access**

International Code Council (ICC)

<https://www.iccsafe.org/>

IFC 2024 ed.

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2024P1>

IFC 2018 ed.

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFC2018P6>

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

<https://www.nfpa.org/>

NFPA 241, Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations, 2022 ed.

<https://link.nfpa.org/free-access/publications/241/2022>

***Tip: NFPA Construction Safety Resource Web Page***

<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/building-and-life-safety/construction-safety>

## **DEFINITIONS**

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**Owner.** Any person, agent, operator, entity, firm or corporation having any legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county or municipality as holding an interest or title to the property; or otherwise having possession or control of the property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

**Site Safety Plan.** A plan developed to establish a fire prevention program at a construction site.

## **SITE SAFETY DIRECTOR**

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The owner shall designate a person to be the Site Safety Director. The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Site Safety Plan. The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for completion of a daily fire safety inspection at the project site.

*Tip:* While not required, it may benefit your project to assign more than one Site Safety Director to accommodate scheduling, absences, or project needs.

### **Responsibility**

- The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Site Safety Plan.
- The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for training fire watch and other responsible personnel in the use of fire protection equipment.
- The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for completion of a daily fire safety inspection at the project site.
- The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for the guard service, if applicable.
- The Site Safety Director shall ensure that all fire protection equipment is inspected, maintained and serviced in accordance with the IFC.

### **Training and Qualifications**

Site Safety Directors shall acquire training specific to their roles and responsibilities. The GJFD recognizes the variability of qualified professionals, credentialing, and certifications available in the safety field. As such, the GJFD emphasizes that the Safety Director(s), the owner, and/or owner's representative obtain the necessary training to ensure competency and compliance with their fire prevention program.

*Tip:* To satisfy the training requirement, applicable entities may wish to complete one or more National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) course(s):

***Fire Prevention Program Manager Series Online Training*** course:

[https://www.nfpa.org/product/ffpm-series-21-ol/ols066?utm\\_source=pdfd&utm\\_medium=print&utm\\_campaign=pdfd0093&utm\\_content=trng&order\\_src=p231%0D](https://www.nfpa.org/product/ffpm-series-21-ol/ols066?utm_source=pdfd&utm_medium=print&utm_campaign=pdfd0093&utm_content=trng&order_src=p231%0D)

and/or

***Construction Site Fire Safety Fundamentals Online Training*** course:

[https://www.nfpa.org/product/construction-site-fire-safety-\(2019\)/ol203](https://www.nfpa.org/product/construction-site-fire-safety-(2019)/ol203)

and/or

***NFPA 241, Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations Online Training Series (2019)*** course:

<https://www.nfpa.org/product/nfpa-241-online-course/p0241ol>

## **SITE SAFETY PLAN COMPONENTS**

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The Site Safety Plan establishes a fire prevention program at the construction site. The Site Safety Plan addresses the requirements of Chapter 33 IFC and other applicable portions of the IFC, the duties of staff and staff training requirements.

Site Safety Plans shall include the following minimum components, as applicable:

1. Name and contact information of Site Safety Director(s).
2. Documentation of the training of the Site Safety Director and fire watch personnel.
3. Procedures for reporting emergencies.
4. Fire department vehicle access routes.
5. Location of fire protection equipment, including portable fire extinguishers, standpipes, fire department connections and fire hydrants.
6. Smoking and cooking policies, designated areas to be used where approved, and signage locations in accordance with IFC Section 3305.7.
7. Location and safety considerations for temporary heating equipment.
8. Hot work permit plan.
9. Plans for control of combustible waste material.
10. Locations and methods for storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids and other hazardous materials.
11. Provisions for site security and where required, for a fire watch.
12. Changes that affect this plan.
13. Other site-specific information required by the fire code official.

## **DAILY SITE INSPECTIONS AND CHECKLIST**

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The Site Safety Director shall be responsible for completion of a daily fire safety inspection at the project site. Each day, all building and outdoor areas shall be inspected to ensure compliance with the following inspection checklist, as applicable.

1. Any contractors entering the site to perform hot work each day have been instructed in the hot work safety requirements in IFC Chapter 35, and hot work is performed only in areas approved by the Site Safety Director.
2. Temporary heating equipment is maintained away from combustible materials in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's instructions.

3. Combustible debris, rubbish and waste material is removed from the building in areas where work is not being performed.
4. Temporary wiring does not have exposed conductors.
5. Flammable liquids and other hazardous materials are stored in locations that have been approved by the Site Safety Director when not involved in work that is being performed.
6. Fire apparatus access roads required by IFC Section 3311 are maintained clear of obstructions that reduce the width of the usable roadway to less than 20 feet.
7. Fire hydrants are clearly visible from access roads and are not obstructed.
8. The location of fire department connections to standpipe and in-service automatic sprinkler systems are clearly identifiable from the access road and such connections are not obstructed.
9. Standpipe systems are in service and continuous to the highest work floor, as specified in IFC Section 3307.2.
10. Portable fire extinguishers are available in locations required by IFC Sections 3305.10.2 and 3306.6.
11. Where a fire watch is required in accordance with IFC Section 3303.5, fire watch records required by that section are up-to-date.

The results of each inspection shall be documented and maintained on-site until a certificate of occupancy has been issued. Documentation shall be immediately available on-site for presentation to the fire code official upon request.

*Tip:* The NFPA Checklist link below contains some of the items that may be inspected at construction, rehabilitation, and demolition sites. The Site Safety Director may wish to utilize this free checklist or develop other checklist(s), as appropriate.

NFPA 241 Checklist link:

<https://www.nfpa.org/forms/fire-safety-checklist-for-construction-sites>

## **ENFORCEMENT**

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Failure to properly conduct, document and maintain the required documentation may result in the issuance of an inspection notice of violation to the Site Safety Director and the GJFD may issue a Stop Work Order.