



Northville Township Fire Department

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Updated January 2020

Construction Safety Guidelines

Referenced Standards:

- 2015 International Fire Code as adopted by Chapter 79-2
- 2015 Michigan Building Code

Commentary:

The following Construction Safety Requirements in compliance with the International Fire Code, Northville Township Code of Ordinances and current fire department standards. The intent of this document is to provide for the safety and security of the employees, contractors, emergency response personnel and the public in regards to safe operations during construction. This document prescribes only the minimum safeguards for construction, alteration and demolition operations to provide reasonable safety to life and property from fire during such operations. This is not an exhaustive list and does not limit the owner to maintain this site in compliance with the IFC, specifically Chapter 33: Fire Safety During Construction and Demolition.

Standards:

- Fire Hydrants and Water Supply**
 - Once hydrants are installed, they must be bagged or covered until they are placed in service.
 - The water main and hydrants shall to be installed, tested and in-service prior to any combustible construction being brought to the site. The Fire Department, in conjunction with the Building Department, may allow foundation work, block and brickwork prior to operational hydrants.
- Fire Lanes.** Signs should be installed as soon as possible in accordance with the [Fire Lane Standards](#).
- Access.** Entrances and roadways must be kept clear and accessible at all times. Parking and work must allow for emergency vehicle access to the site at all times. Vehicle access must be provided to within 100 ft. of temporary FDC's. Road conditions must be approved by the fire department (3310.1).
- Gates.** A Knox padlock keyed to the Fire Department must be installed on all access gates.
- Sales Trailer.** Construction and sales trailers must have approval of the Building Department.
- Telephone.** Accessible emergency communications method shall be provided in an approved location.
- Identification.** The street address must be visible on the work site as well the phone number for the Northville Township Dispatch Center (248) 349-9400 or 9-1-1.
- Fire extinguishers.** Fire extinguishers must be provided per Section 906 and located at: 1.) Each stairway on all floor levels, 2.) In all storage and construction sheds 3.) In areas with additional hazards. See 3315.1 for further
- Temporary Heating Equipment (Section 3303)**
 - All temporary heating devices shall be listed and labeled in accordance with the IMC or the IFGC. Follow all listing specifications (3303.1).
 - LP-gas heaters gas-fired heaters shall comply with Chapter 38 and the IFGC (3303.3).
 - Refueling of devices for liquid-fueled equipment or appliances shall be conducted in accordance with Section 3303.4. Allow the equipment to cool prior to refueling (3303.4).
 - Clearance to combustibles must be maintained in accordance with the equipment's listing. When in operation, heating devices shall be fixed in place and protected from damage, dislodgement or overturning in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (3304.5).

- Smoking.** Smoking is prohibited except in approved areas. Signs shall be posted in accordance with 310. Where smoking is permitted, approved ashtrays shall be provided (3304.1).
- Waste disposal.** Combustible debris shall not be accumulated within buildings and shall be removed from the building at the end of each shift (3303.3). The burning of debris is NOT permitted (3304.4).
- Open burning.** Open burning shall comply with section 307 (3304.4).
- Oily rags.** Materials susceptible to spontaneous ignition shall be stored in a listed disposal container.
- Fire watch.** Please see the [NTFD Fire Watch Guidelines and Log](#) for requirements (3304.5)
- Cutting and welding.** Cutting and welding must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 35 (3304.6).
- Electrical.** Electrical must be installed per NFPA 70.
- Flammable and combustible liquids (Class I and Class II liquids).**
 - Must be stored in accordance with 5704.
 - Class I and II liquids must comply with 5706.2
 - Storage areas must be kept free weeds or other combustible materials (5706.2.1).
 - Open flame or smoking is prohibited in the area (5706.2.1).
 - Containers must be marked with the name of the product and the words “FLAMMABLE-KEEP FIRE AND FLAME AWAY” and “KEEP 50 FEET FROM BUILDINGS (5706.2.2).
 - Containers for liquids must be in accordance with DOTn requirements (5706.2.3).
 - A portable fire extinguisher must be a minimum of 20-B:C and comply with 906. Extinguisher must be in clear view and within 50 feet of the storage tank (5706.2.7).
 - Tanks containing Class I/Class II liquids shall be kept outside and at least 50 ft. from buildings and combustible storage (5706.2.4.3).
 - FL/CL storage areas must be clear of combustible vegetation/waste materials (5705.3).
 - Sources of ignition must be limited including smoking.
 - Leaking vessels shall be immediately repaired or taken out of service properly (3305.6).
- Explosive materials.** Explosive materials must comply with Chapter 56.
- Fire protection requirements.**
 - A fire prevention and safety program superintendent must be designated to be responsible for the project including employee training for use of fire protection equipment (3308.1, 3308.3).
 - Hot work operations must comply with Chapter 26 (3308.5).
 - Any fire protection device that is covered to prevent damage during construction must be restored to normal operation upon completion of the work.
- Standpipes.** Buildings where the floor of the highest story is located more than 30 feet from the lowest level of FD access or 30 feet below the highest level of FD access will be reviewed further.
- Occupancy.** No occupancy will be allowed until fire sprinkler systems are tested and approved (33.1).
- Internal combustion engines.** Equipment must not be allowed to exhaust against combustible material, must be piped to the outside of the building, and must not be refueled while in operation.
- Roofing operations.** Roofing operations must be in accordance with 3317.2, 13317.3, Chapter 35 and Section 303. An ABC type extinguisher must be provided with a minimum rating of 3-A 40-B:C.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (248) 348-5807 or via email at thughes@twp.northville.mi.us.

Respectfully,



Thomas M. Hughes, Jr.
Fire Marshal