# Outline for Short Briefing for Employees

# Background

**Some Things to Know Before You Give Your Talk**

As a supervisor, you know that construction site fires are preventable. U.S. Fire Administration research reports an estimated 4, 800 construction site fires annually, with $35 million in property loss.  Fire cause job delays and present injury/fatality exposures to both construction workers and firefighters.  Incendiary/suspicious (arson) and open flame are the leading causes.

Construction materials, trash, brush and flammable/combustible liquids are the principal items involved in construction site fires.  Every worker should know what they can do to help reduce the exposure to fire and how to react if a fire should occur.

Here are some examples:

- Housekeeping is key to fire safety.  Keep the work area clean.  Promptly and properly dispose of waste materials.  Doing this removes potential fuel sources for fire.

- Have an adequate number of fire extinguishers on site that are inspected, maintain and readily accessible.

- Know how to operate fire extinguishers and under what conditions they should be used. Implement a Hot Work Permit system.  Document when and where hot work will be performed and how the area will be safeguarded.  Use a fire watch with fire extinguishers and require the fire watch to stay in place for a specified time (example 30-60 minutes) following completion of work.

- Have controls in place for smoking on the site. Properly use and store flammable/combustible liquids.  Keep them away from open flames and other sources of heat.

- Properly dispose of and remove the job all cloths, rags, etc. that are used with flammable/combustible liquids.

- Use only approved hearing devices and use with caution.  Keep proper clearance from combustible materials.  Follow approved fueling procedures and ventilation requirements.

- Report all fire hazards immediately.

- Know job site emergency procedures and what to do in the event of a fire.

- Know evacuation routes and make sure they are not blocked.