

# *Fire Safety in the Oil Patch: Summer Preparedness*

Preventing and Managing Fire Hazards During Hot Weather

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## Who we are...

Matt Hoppman is a highly experienced fire service professional, paramedic, and emergency management specialist with over 19 years in public safety. He serves as a Master Arson Investigator, Master Fire Inspector, and Master Firefighter with the Midland Fire Department, as well as a TCOLE Certified Peace Officer. Holding a Bachelor's in Emergency Management and an Associate's in Fire Science, Matt is also a certified Fire Instructor, EMS Instructor, and Firearms Instructor. As a Skills Instructor at Midland College, he trains future first responders, drawing from his extensive field experience in fire investigations, hazardous materials response, and emergency operations.



## Who we are...

Justin Rhoades is a dedicated fire service professional with over a decade of experience in the Midland Fire Department. Serving the past seven years in the Fire Marshal's Office as an Investigator, he has played a critical role in fire prevention, investigation, and enforcement. Justin holds multiple Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) certifications, including Advanced Firefighter, Advanced Arson Investigator, and Advanced Fire Inspector as well as being an Advanced Peace Officer. He also earned a Master of Science in Homeland Security from Sul Ross State University, further enhancing his expertise in public safety and emergency management.



# Why Fire Safety Matters During the Summer

- Higher temperatures increase ignition risks.
- Dry conditions elevate wildfire potential.
- Equipment and flammable materials become more volatile.



# Common Fire Hazards in Oilfield Work

- Hot work (welding, grinding)
- Flammable liquids and gases
- Electrical malfunctions
- Static electricity
- Smoking or open flames



# Seasonal Risk Factors

- High ambient temperatures
- Lightning storms
- Increased use of cooling fans or generators
- Dry vegetation around sites



# Prevention Measures

- Daily fire risk assessments
- Clear vegetation/debris from work areas
  - Limit hot work to early morning hours
- Regular maintenance on engines and electrical equipment



# Hot Work

- Fire watch assigned during and after work
- Use of flame-resistant blankets and barriers





# Fire Response Equipment

- Fire extinguishers (ABC, CO2) inspected monthly
  - Fire suppression systems checked
- Water tanks/pump trucks ready and accessible



# Emergency Procedures

- Evacuation plan posted and rehearsed
  - Muster points clearly marked
- Emergency contact numbers visible
  - Drills held monthly during summer



# Employee Training

- Fire extinguisher use (PASS method)
- Recognizing early signs of combustion
  - Reporting protocols for hazards
- Role-based responsibilities in emergencies



# Final Reminders

- Stay alert in extreme heat
- Always report unsafe conditions
- Fire safety is everyone's responsibility



# Questions and Discussion

