

Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District

Commercial Business Newsletter

941-751-7675

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Welcome to Southern Manatee Fire Rescue Newsletter for commercial businesses! Periodically, we will send you information to help you keep your business safe from fire and other emergencies. There are always hot topics to discuss but if you need assistance at any time, feel free to give us a call. We are ready to help!

Do you know the different types of fire extinguishers? Do you know how to use one? Do you know the word PASS and what it means?

Southern Manatee offers a variety of free classes to train your employees on the proper use of a fire extinguisher. Give us a call today to schedule your free training!

Extension Cord Safety

Electricity plays a major role in our lives daily. We often take the convenience it provides and the potential fire related hazard for granted. Stay safe by following some of these safety tips:



Have all work done by a qualified electrician.

Only plug one heat producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at one time.



Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs.

Extension cords are intended for temporary use; have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords. Do NOT substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.

Storage of Idle Pallets

Wooden pallets provide the making for a big, hot bonfire. The heat generated by burning pallets can be intense. This is why area high schools use wooden pallets for their homecoming bonfires. But those same pallets, stored inside or outside your business could possible burn your building down.



Idle pallets are permitted to be stored inside a structure as long as they are no higher than 6' and each pile having no more than 4 stacks and separated by other stacks of clear space of 8' or 25' of commodity.

Outside storage of under 50 pallets has a minimum distance from other storage of 20'. A larger pile would require a greater separation.

The required clearance between outside idle pallet storage and the building varies but starts with at least 10'. But the larger the pile, the greater the distance. If you need assistance to figure out the correct separation of your idle pallets, just give us a call!

Turn the page to read about HMMP – Hazardous Materials Management Plan and ***WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.***

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Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP): What You Need to Know



An ever-growing area of concern across industry is the appropriate management of hazardous materials and waste in commercial businesses. The number of government regulations concerning hazardous materials handling alone is significant—from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), to the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Under these laws, the disposal of hazardous material in the sewer system, storm water system, on the ground, or in regular trash is regulated by a number of prohibitions.

In addition to these regulations, there are federal codes for the storage hazardous materials —from standards of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) -that apply across industry.

The Southern Manatee Fire Rescue District's Fire Prevention Bureau (SMFRFPB) has the responsibility to inspect businesses within our district to ensure that hazardous materials are properly managed and stored. Our local code enforcement requirements reference hazardous material as it relates to hazard classes—a significant difference compared to some of the other hazardous materials regulations across the U.S. These include and are based on:

- ❖ Hazard class of the chemical
- ❖ Volume of the chemical
- ❖ How the chemical is used
- ❖ How the chemical is stored
- ❖ Building occupancy



Depending on these things, the SMFRFPB may require the facility to develop a Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP). The HMMP should be submitted to the Bureau and reviewed during the Annual Fire Safety Inspection..

The purpose of a Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) is to describe the company's procedures for storing, using, managing, and disposing of hazardous materials in a safe manner.

The information requested for an HMMP is different than that required for Tier II reporting under Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The purpose of the Tier II form is to provide state and local officials and the public with information on the general hazard types and locations of hazardous chemicals at the facility.

Managing hazardous materials is a part of doing business safely. Submitting a HMMP is a requirement that will further help ensure that the company, the environment, and the surrounding community remain unharmed.

If you have further questions about submitting a HMMP plan please contact,
Capt. Mike Bloski with SMFR Special Operations Division at 1-941-751-7675.

