



FIRE PREVENTION

By Drew Hinton, President/CEO of Arrow Safety, LLC



Did You Know?

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week™ a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week™, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week™ is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific blaze killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Other Key Statistics

- In 2019, local fire departments responded to an estimated 1.3 million fires. These fires caused roughly 3,700 civilian fire deaths and 16,600 reported civilian fire injuries. Property damage was estimated at \$14.8 billion.
- On average, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the US every 24 seconds in 2019. A home structure fire was reported every 93 seconds, a home fire death occurred every three hours and 10 minutes, and a home fire injury occurred every 43 minutes.
- For overall home fires, the death rate per 1,000 fires was 15 percent higher in 2019 than in 1980, while the comparable civilian injury rate was 34 percent higher than in 1980.
- Home fires involving electrical distribution and lighting equipment most often originated in a bedroom (17% of total), attic or ceiling (12%), or a wall assembly or concealed space (9%).

- Cooking caused more home fire deaths in 2014-2018 than in 1980-1984, with an average of 470 home cooking fires reported per day in 2018. The peak days for home cooking fires were Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Safety Tips

Whether you're in the workplace, at home, traveling, or somewhere in between, here are some fire safety tips that can potentially save your life:

- Life safety is your #1 priority! Call 911 **AFTER** evacuating the building!
- Check your smoke detector(s) at least monthly by pushing the "test" button. All smoke detectors should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- When traveling, review the escape plan posted in your hotel/motel room on the back of the door. Remember to always have two ways out!
 - **FACT:** On average, 1 in every 13 hotels/motels report a structure fire each year.
- Be sure to have an evacuation plan at home that everyone is aware of.
- Check your portable fire extinguishers to ensure they are in good condition. If they have not had an annual inspection completed within the last year, contact your organization's EHS Dept. to schedule this.
- When conducting "hot work" in the workplace (e.g., welding, cutting, brazing), be sure to fill out a hot work permit if you're not in a designated area.
 - **FACT:** US fire departments responded to an average of 4,630 structure fires involving hot work per year in 2013-2017. These fires caused an average of 15 civilian deaths, 198 civilian injuries and \$355 million in direct property damage per year. • Welding torches were involved in 39% of these fires.
- If you have a cooking fire, have others evacuate and ensure you have a clear way out first. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
 - Do **NOT** attempt to use flour, sugar, or any other form of powdery substance to put out the fire. Although it may work, it poses a risk of causing a combustible dust explosion, which could result in more extensive damage and/or injuries.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week™, visit www.nfpa.com/firepreventionweek

Sospes and Arrow Safety Announce Reseller Partnership

Arrow Safety, LLC has become an authorized reseller of Sospes' software products to complement its popular training and consulting services offerings. This relationship will create a streamlined path for safety and operations professionals to deploy safety solutions that meet the performance demands of their companies. A distinguishing feature of both companies is a strong belief that companies are better when they engage their employees in safety processes.



"Arrow Safety is extremely excited to be partnering with Sospes," said Drew Hinton, Founder of Arrow Safety. "Sospes' EHS management software is a world class platform that will greatly complement the services we offer to our customers, bringing them the best of both worlds – professional EHS consulting and training, along with an easy-to-use software program that, when combined, will be able to keep your employees safer, and improve the safety culture within the workplace."

"We are excited to be working with Drew and Arrow Safety," said Tom Carson, President of Sospes. "Drew has years of varied experience in complex industries and safety environments, and we share the view that safety professionals can dramatically leverage their skills and experience with technology."

About Sospes, LLC

Sospes' award-winning EH&S management software makes organizations better by engaging employees with easy incident reporting, accountable actions management and powerful data analytics, all with a single integrated mobile application. The product is easy to learn, simple to use and can be implemented in far less time than typical enterprise systems. The application is hosted in Microsoft's Azure Cloud, which allows the company to deliver a secure, robust user experience nearly anywhere in the world. For more information, please visit www.sospes.com.

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The Time to Innovate is Now – Take the Leap

By Thomas Carson, Founder/CEO of Sospes, LLC

"Every period of turmoil produces winners and losers, and the winners are nearly always those companies that see changing circumstances as an opportunity to embrace, not a crisis to be outlasted."



Now is an ideal time to move from paper-and-Excel-based safety systems with software that not only transforms safety results, but also integrates with the rest of your organization for improved operating results.

Last week I attended an on-line (of course) event in which we heard expert guidance on business strategies for weathering the pandemic. The gist of the advice was, "don't bankrupt the business by saving cash in every possible way. Hunker down, cut all non-essential costs and eventually we will survive to come out on the other side."

I understand that rule #1 is *don't crash the airplane*. And I understand if a company is so tight on cash that there is no cushion, sometimes cutting may be all you can do to survive. But for a company with modest resources and serious ambitions, recessions and other periods of uncertainty can be a time to leap ahead of less imaginative or unprepared competitors. Every period of turmoil produces winners and losers, and the winners are nearly always those companies that see changing circumstances as an opportunity to embrace, not a crisis to be outlasted.

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- Visit Arrow Safety's media page to view it at any time.
 - www.arrowsafetyus.com/media
- New on-demand training sessions added regularly!



If you have any questions about how Arrow Safety can help your organization, contact us and we'll be glad to help!

Drew Hinton, CSP, CHMM, EMT

President/CEO

Arrow Safety, LLC

218 Zoe Drive

Glasgow, KY 42141

P: (270) 670-4718

E: drew@arrowsafetyus.com

www.arrowsafetyus.com



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