

Lessons Learned

Date: 8/17/2023

Region: Coastal - Seattle

Project: RBHS

Incident Title: Fire Evacuation

Summary

Smoke inhalation is a serious hazard that can be deadly. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke inhalation is the leading cause of death in residential fires. Smoke inhalation accounts for an estimated 60-80% of all fire-related deaths.

On the RBHS jobsite, at approximately 2:25 pm, other contractors started a fire.

The Apollo crew on the RBHS job site were fortunate to have a quick-thinking foreman who was able to evacuate the crew to safety when they noticed a fire starting. This is a reminder of the importance of being prepared for fire hazards and having a plan in place for evacuation.

Picture



What Went Right?

- Foreman noticed black smoke from other contractors' work and began the evacuation process
- All workers safely shut down their work areas and evacuated without risking their safety.

What Went Wrong?

- Surrounding contractors did not survey the area for flammable material prior to starting hot work.

Lessons Learned

- Always be aware of other trades, and always be on the lookout for jobsite hazards.
- Have a process in place for crew evacuation. In some situations, the site evacuation process will not have been initiated before the Apollo crew is at risk. Have a way to communicate with your team so that they can evacuate when they are at risk.