Fire Safety During Construction Projects

Every campus undergoes a construction project at some time or another. For many institutions it’s just a regular part of life. But how often is fire safety and code compliance considered for operations inside the orange fence?

Beyond the typical expectation that the final project will meet Code, the Fire Code of New York State has specific requirements to ensure fire safety in and around the construction site. Areas of concern include:

- Temporary Heating Equipment
- Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- Flammable Gases
- Explosive Materials
- Owner’s Responsibility for Fire Protection
- Fire Alarm Reporting
- Access for Fire Fighting
- Means of Egress
- Water Supply for Fire Protection
- Standpipes
- Automatic Sprinkler Systems
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Motorized Equipment
- Safeguarding Roofing Operations

Often construction projects will have an impact on fire and life safety outside the area generally considered the worksite. It is critical for the safety of everyone that a comprehensive fire safety evaluation be performed, not just during design, but repeatedly throughout the entire project.

§F1401.2 Purpose. This chapter prescribes minimum safeguards for construction, alteration, and demolition operations to provide reasonable safety to life and property from fire during such operations.

Is your site fire safe?