



COMBUSTIBLES

Naval Ships' Technical Manual (NSTM) identifies combustible materials as flammable solids, gases or liquids that have the potential of being the fuel or catalyst in any class of fire.

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IMPROPER COMBUSTIBLE MANAGEMENT IS AN ELEVATED RISK TO FLEET

Naval Safety Command (NAVSAFECOM) discovered a lack of appreciation for the hazards associated with significant transitions, especially during maintenance periods; and insufficient management of the associated risk. The Local Area Assessments team also found declining standards in watch standings, failure to critically assess and address deficiencies in a timely and effective manner, ineffective day-to-day training and a lack of comprehensive integrated drill sets.

COMBUSTIBLE FIRE PREVENTION

- Preventing fires due to combustible materials is a critical focus for the Navy, as fires aboard ships undergoing maintenance can lead to significant damage, loss of life and disruption to naval operations.
- The Navy's report highlighting over \$4 billion in estimated damages from fires that occurred between May 2008 and December 2022 underscores the severe consequences of such incidents. These fires typically stem from a variety of factors, with combustible materials playing a central role in the ignition and spread of fire aboard ships.



NAVSAFECOM & NSTM 555 VOLS 1 AND 2 REQUIREMENTS

1. Ensure flammable and combustible liquid sounding tube caps are in place.
2. Immediately stop flammable and combustible liquid leaks and repair.
3. Wipe up spilled or leaked flammable or combustible liquids.
4. Keep ventilation ducts and duct heaters free of lint, dust, debris and oily residue.
5. Prevent stockpiling of excess or unauthorized combustibles and flammables.
6. Ensure uptake spaces and fan rooms are not used as storerooms for combustible materials.
7. Dispose of non-essential combustible packing materials. Supply items should be unpacked as soon as possible so combustible packaging can be disposed of to reduce the available fire fuel loading on the ship.

Proper stowage, cleanliness and disposal of combustible materials are the best methods for fire prevention.



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Afloat Office: (757) 444-3520, ext. 7831, DSN: 564-3520
NAVSAFECOM_CODE30_AFLOAT@navy.mil
Surface Office: (757) 444-3520, ext. 7831
NAVSAFECOM_CODE31_SURFACE@navy.mil
Submarine Office: (757) 444-3520, ext. 7833
NAVSAFECOM_CODE33_SUBMARINES@navy.mil