

Idle Pallet Storage Basics

The storage of idle, combustible pallets is a severe fire hazard requiring careful loss prevention and control measures. Use of this checklist may reduce the exposure present by storage of idle pallets.

General

- Pallets are arranged in stable piles and in an orderly fashion.
- Pallets with damage are removed from use and scrapped.
- Pallets are stored flat, not on edge.
- Pallet storage areas are separated from other storage areas, located away from compressed gas cylinder or propane tank storage, located away from structural supports, and do not block means of egress.

Outside storage

- Outside storage locations are protected from unauthorized access.
- Pallets are located away from the main building and other outside storage with at least 20 feet of clearance for 50 or fewer stored pallets, at least 30 feet of clearance for 51 – 200 stored pallets, and at least 50 feet of clearance for storage of more than 200 pallets
- Exterior pallet storage areas are clean and well maintained.

Inside storage – wood pallets

- Floor storage of pallets should be limited to six feet in height, with individual stacks (four pallets per group) separated by at least eight feet, or 25 feet from commodity storage.
- Stacked pallets that are over six feet in height should be protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.
- Rack storage should not be permitted unless protected by an Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinkler system, in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

Inside storage – plastic pallets

- Pallets stored in cutoff rooms that are limited to 12 feet in height should be protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.
- Steel columns in cutoff rooms should be protected by a one-hour, fire-rated covering.
- Walls in cutoff rooms should have a three-hour fire resistance rating.
- Storage outside of cutoff rooms should be limited to 10 feet in height and protected by an automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.
- Rack storage should be protected by an Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinkler system, designed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

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