



Date: May 15, 2007
From: Peggy A. Munsell, Manager of Standards and Technical Resources
Subject: Live Fire Burn

This issue originated as an email from an employee.

Issue: I would like to know if drip torches are approved to use as an ignition source in live training burns? Again the drip torch would only be used to light the pallets and straw. I have read through NFPA 1403 2007 edition and it doesn't state what is an acceptable and recognized ignition source. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Answer: Oregon OSHA's Division 2, Subdivision L, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters, OAR [437-002-0182](#)(10)(c), requires live fire training be conducted following the requirements in Appendix C. Under the "Ignition Sources" section of Appendix C, drip torches are listed as an option that may be used. Thus, the answer to your question is "yes", drip torches are allowed to be used in Oregon.

It's important to recognize that while NFPA provides very important guidelines to the Fire Service, Oregon OSHA's rules are the ones that must be complied with by fire fighters in Oregon. Approximately three years ago the Oregon OSHA Fire Fighters Advisory Committee asked an NFPA subcommittee for their thoughts about the use of drip torches for live fire training. Word was sent back that the subcommittee had not even considered their use (no hazard had been identified), and that the subject would be reviewed by the entire committee (refer to [July 12, 2004 minutes](#)). Dan Rossos, Portland Fire & Rescue, serves on that committee.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Ron Haverkost, Chairman of the Oregon Fire Fighters Advisory Committee, at 503 947-7421.

