

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
15 March 2021

DOLE-BWC is one with BFP in ensuring fire safety in workplaces

“Sa Pag-iwas sa Sunog Di Ka Nag-iisa,” states the theme of this year’s Fire Prevention Month.

As the dry season approaches the country, fire safety preparedness is strongly enforced in all workplaces and fire incidences nationwide are closely monitored. In line with the theme of this year’s Fire Prevention Month, the DOLE- Bureau of Working Conditions (DOLE-BWC) emphasizes the importance of Occupational Safety and Health Committee (OSHC) in workplaces. OSHC is a requirement under Rule 1040 of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards where one of its primary duty is to ensure workplace coordination of fire prevention and conduct of periodic drills and hazard identification in the workplace.

DOLE-BWC is always in support of the implementation of Republic Act No. 9514, otherwise known as Fire Code of the Philippines, which aims to ensure public safety through the prevention and mitigation of destructive fires. Fire incidents pose a huge risk in businesses; hence, the importance of compliance to RA 9514 on prevention, mitigation, and response to fire incidents is always emphasized.

The Fire Code of the Philippines, provides, among others, the duty of owners, employers, managers, employees, and other occupants in ensuring fire safety in establishments. Among the duties the foregoing must maintain their premises are as follows: (1) take steps to prevent and reduce the impact of fire in the workplace and carry out a fire risk assessment of their workplace, (2) identify the significant findings of the risk assessment and the details of anyone who might be especially at risk in case of fire and institute control measures, (3) provide and maintain fire precautions necessary to safeguard anyone using the workplace (including visitors), and (4) provide information, instruction, and training to employees about fire precautions in the workplace.

Aside from training on fire prevention, the DOLE- BWC urges all workplaces to participate in fire drills because these simulations will prepare everyone how to manage oneself and others in case a real fire incident break in a workplace.

-MASV-