



**THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**  
(RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACQUISITION)  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

July, 24 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP MAINTENANCE ENTERPRISE

SUBJECT: Fire Safety

I am calling each and every one of you who builds and maintains our Navy ships to action. We must all do our part to ensure the safety of our ships, especially fire safety. I ask you to take recent events as poignant reminders that each one of us must always keep a constant attention on safety.

Anyone who steps aboard our ships must be ever vigilant about ensuring fire safety. I urge you to use this as the impetus to ensure that our work spaces are clean, that unnecessary clutter is removed, that all fire safety measures are being followed and that there is unrestricted access to firefighting and damage control equipment. We need to make sure that we and those around us have not only accomplished necessary fire safety training and are familiar with established safety procedures, but that we are also prepared to act in order to prevent any fires or mishaps. It is critical that we hold ourselves, our teammates and supervisors accountable for fire safety.

Preventing shipboard fires is a team sport, no matter where the ship is in its life cycle, and no matter who is working on the ship. I am asking that we all “double down” on fire safety to ensure we are able to keep ourselves, our ships and our Sailors safe, and so that we can deliver and sustain a lethal force for our Navy. Success depends on us getting the small stuff right. Details matter – we each have to do our job thoroughly to prevent the chain of events that could lead to fires and accidents.

There is no place in our Navy for complacency – the lives of our teammates and the accomplishment of our mission depends upon it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Geurts", is positioned above the printed name.

James F. Geurts