

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SAFE WORK PRACTICES

REVIEWED OCTOBER 27 2015

OH&S Code Part 10 Section 162

Make sure workers know the locations and types of fire extinguishers in their work area

Warning: Tampering with fire protection equipment is a serious offence and may result in the violator being removed from the site.

If a fire occurs, do the following:

- Before attempting to put out a fire be sure you have a way of escape, that is your priority.
- If it is possible to extinguish the fire with the equipment and personnel at hand, you may try to do so
- If there is **any** possibility that the fire cannot be extinguished with the equipment and personnel at hand, raise the alarm, call 911, and implement evacuation procedures
- The worker who first reported the fire must inform the Supervisor of the circumstances of the fire

Fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers must be placed in accessible locations throughout a work site. Fire extinguishers must be chosen according to the type of fire that could occur. Workers must be instructed annually regarding the proper use of fire extinguishers, the types of fire extinguishers available, and the locations of the fire extinguishers.

A monthly inspection of all fire extinguishers must be conducted.

Fire extinguishers are important to fire prevention and protection, and workers must be trained to use them properly.

Always keep fire extinguishers where they are visible and easy to reach. Maintain them properly, especially in areas where temperature is a factor.

Select the right fire extinguisher for the area. It is important to know which type of fire extinguisher to use for a particular fire type.

There are four general fire classifications: Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D. Certain types of fire extinguishers are optimal for use on certain types of fires.

Combination type fire extinguishers, such as ABC units, are effective on different types of fires.

Class A

Class A fire extinguishers should be used on Class A fires such as wood, paper, rag, rubbish, or other ordinary combustible material fires.

A number of types of fire extinguishers are recommended for dealing with a Class A fire:

- ABC type units
- Water from a hose



- o Pump type
- Water can or pressurized extinguisher
- Soda acid extinguisher

To fight a Class A fire, do the following:

Soak the fire completely, even the smoking embers

Class B

Class B fire extinguishers should be used on class B fires, such as flammable liquid, oil, or grease fires.

A number of types of fire extinguishers are recommended for dealing with

Class B fires:

- o ABC type units
- Dry chemical
- o Foam
- o Carbon dioxide

To fight a Class B fire, do the following:

 Start at the base of the fire and use a sweeping motion from left to right and always keep the fire in front of you

Class C

Class C fire extinguishers should be used on Class C fires, such as electrical equipment fires.

The type of extinguisher recommended for use against this type of fire is the following:

ABC type units (Carbon dioxide and dry chemical)

To fighting a Class C fire, do the following:

Use short bursts from the extinguisher on the fire.

Warning: When the electrical current is shut off on a Class C fire, it can become a Class A fire if the materials around the electrical fire are ignited.

• Class D

This class of fire uses combustible metals such as sodium and magnesium as fuel.

Note: The most common fire extinguisher on a construction site is an ABC type, which can deal with A, B, and C Class fires. Avoid inhaling vapours from extinguisher as they can be dangerous to health.

Related SWP & HAA;

Compressed Gas Cylinders



Housekeeping

Hot Work

Remember:

When To Fight The Fire...

If you are called on to use an extinguisher, just think of the word "P.A.S.S."

Fight the fire only if all of the following are true:

Everyone has left or is leaving the

the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher.



The the is small and confined to the immediate area where it started (wastebasket, cushion, small appli-

The fire department is being called.

the nozzle or hose at the base of the away from the flames,



guisher and know you can operate it

effectively.

You are trained to use the extin-

working order.



PROTECT YOURSELF AT ALL TIMES!

Stay low, Avoid breathing the heated smoke and fumes or the extinguishing

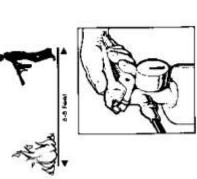
whether you should fight the fire — DON'T! Instead, get out and close the door behind you.

If you have the slightest doubt about

until it goes out.











flames. Stay between six and eight feet

 Your extinguisher is rated for the type of fire you are fighting and is in good

You can fight the fire with your back

to a safe escape route.





By following these procedures, a fire can be extinguished in the quickest and safest manner possible.

If the fire starts to spread or threatens your escape route, get out immediately!









