



## **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SAFE WORK PRACTICES**

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OH&S Code Part 10 Section 162

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- 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



- 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:

- ABC type units
- Dry chemical
- Foam
- 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

## When To Fight The Fire...

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

- Everyone has left or is leaving the building.
- The fire department is being called.
- The fire is small and confined to the immediate area where it started (wastebasket, cushion, small appliance, etc.).
- You can fight the fire with your back to a safe escape route.
- Your extinguisher is rated for the type of fire you are fighting and is in good working order.
- You are trained to use the extinguisher and know you can operate it effectively.

If you have the slightest doubt about whether you should fight the fire — **DON'T!** Instead, get out and close the door behind you.

## PROTECT YOURSELF AT ALL TIMES!

Stay low. Avoid breathing the heated smoke and fumes or the extinguishing agent.

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

## Remember:

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

## PULL

the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher.



## AIM

the nozzle or hose at the base of the flames. Stay between six and eight feet away from the flames.



## SQUEEZE

or press the handle.



## SWEEP

from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.



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