



# **FIRE PREVENTION / SAFETY TRAINING**

**Introduction:** Similarly, to any type of emergency, planning and prevention are key parts in fire safety. Because the fire is such a disaster widespread, prevention should be a constant focus. All employees must understand the prevention concepts, as well as some dos and don'ts.

**There are 5 major classifications of fire, known as A, B, C, D and K:**

**Class A:** Fires involve ordinary combustible materials like cloth, wood, paper, rubber, many plastics, and most kinds of trash. Water is one of the most used extinguishing agents for Class A fires. Air-Pressurized Water Extinguishers (APW) can be used on a Class A fire. Multi-purpose Dry Chemical Extinguishers, rated ABC, may also be used to put out a Class A fire.

**Class B:** Fires involve flammable and combustible liquids such as gasoline, alcohols, oil-based paints, petroleum greases, tars, oils, and solvents. Class B fires can also be started with flammable gases like propane and butane. Do not attempt to extinguish a fire involving flammable gas unless the source of fuel can be located and turned off safely. Never use water to extinguish a flammable liquid or gas fire. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguishers or multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguishers, rated BC or ABC can be used to put out a Class B fire.

**Class C:** Fires involve energized electrical equipment such as computers, servers, motors, transformers, wiring, fuse boxes, and appliances. Do not attempt to use water to extinguish an energized electrical fire. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguishers or multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguishers, rated BC or ABC can be used to put out a Class C fire.

**Class D:** Fires involve powders, flakes, dust, machine shavings or other fine pieces of combustible metals like lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, titanium, or zirconium. The most common method for extinguishing a combustible metal fire is to cover the burning material with a dry powder extinguishing agent that works by smothering the fire, separating it from oxygen and absorbing the heat. Different metals may require different extinguishing agents.

**Class K:** Fires involve vegetable oils, animal fats and grease in cooking appliances. Fire extinguishers with a K rating may be required in commercial kitchens where large quantities of food are prepared using oil or grease. Do not use a Class A fire extinguisher that contains water or a CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguisher on a deep fat fryer because an explosive reaction may occur.

## **Ways companies can prevent fires:**

- ✓ Use fire retardant construction materials.
- ✓ Provide fire resistant containers.
- ✓ Instruct employees on fire safety.
- ✓ Establish clear and aggressive policies and expectations regarding security against fires.

## **Three items needed for a fire:**

- ✓ Fuel (paper, oil, wood, etc.)
- ✓ Oxygen (present in the air).
- ✓ Heat (flame, electricity, friction, or chemical reaction).

