

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AT WORK



FIGHTING SMALL FIRES ON THE JOB

If there is a fire, follow your company's fire emergency plan. Designated trained employees will evaluate the fire and decide if it is safe to fight it.

If the fire is too large or conditions are unsafe, all employees should evacuate.

BEFORE FIGHTING A FIRE, BE SURE THAT...

1. You have been trained to operate the extinguisher.
2. Everyone not designated to use extinguishers is leaving the area, and someone has sounded the alarm and called the fire department.
3. You have an unobstructed escape route in case you can't put out the fire.
4. You know what's burning and your extinguisher is right for the fire.

PASS: USING PORTABLE EXTINGUISHERS

Keep your back to a clear exit and stand six to eight feet away from the fire, and remember the acronym **PASS**.



Pull the pin that unlocks the operating lever.



Aim low Point the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire.



Squeeze the lever above the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent. To stop the discharge, release the lever.



Sweep the nozzle or hose from side to side. Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until the flames appear to be out.



Extinguishers should be installed within easy reach (so employees can access them quickly while the fire is still small) and near doors, so anyone using them will have a safe escape route.

- ◆ Watch the fire area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat the process.
- ◆ Have the fire department inspect the fire site, even if you think you've extinguished the fire.

THE FIVE CLASSES OF FIRE

Portable extinguishers must match the fire you're fighting. There are five classes of fires. Extinguishers are labeled with standard letters and symbols for the classes of fires they can put out.

Class A fires involve ordinary combustibles, such as wood, cloth, and paper.



Class B fires involve flammable liquids, such as gasoline, oil, and some paints and solvents.



Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment, such as power tools, wiring, fuse boxes, computers, TVs, and electric motors.



Class D fires involve combustible metals, such as magnesium or sodium. Fighting Class D fires requires specialized training.



Class K fires involve cooking oils used in commercial cooking equipment.



A red slash through any of the fire-class symbols on an extinguisher's label means you must not use the extinguisher on that class of fire.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ◆ It is dangerous to use water or an extinguisher labeled only for Class A fires on a fire involving flammable liquids or energized electrical equipment.
- ◆ Extinguishers for Class D fires must match the type of metal that is burning. The metals will be listed on the label.
- ◆ Use only extinguishers labeled for Class K fires for fighting a fire in a commercial grease fryer. Multipurpose extinguishers — labeled for Class A, B, and C fires — aren't appropriate.
- ◆ The dry chemicals discharged from multipurpose extinguishers are corrosive. Their residue can damage electronic components, if not cleaned immediately.



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