



GOALS

This safety session should teach employees to:

- Select the right fire extinguisher for a fire.
- Use a fire extinguisher.

Applicable Regulation: 29 CFR 1910.157



1. Many employers have and maintain fire extinguishers.

- Approved, fully charged, operable extinguishers must be placed and identified, so employees can reach them easily.
- Extinguishers must be visually inspected monthly and tested at least yearly to be sure they're working properly.
- Our fire extinguishers are located ... [List locations].

2. Use fire extinguishers only on small, contained fires.

- If in doubt, sound alarm, evacuate properly, and let trained firefighters handle it.

3. Use Class A extinguishers on fires of ordinary combustibles.

They wet down and cool fires involving paper, cloth, trash, wood, etc.

- Class A extinguisher numbers (1-A, 2-A, etc.) indicate the size fire each can handle.
 - The higher the number, the larger the fire area it can handle.
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires Class As to be no more than 75 feet from the area of likely use.

4. Use Class B extinguishers on fires involving gases or flammable liquids.

They cut off oxygen to, or reduce flames in, fires involving combustibles such as grease, oil paint, and solvents.

- Class B extinguisher numbers (5-B, 10-B, etc.) tell how many square feet each can handle.
- OSHA requires Class Bs to be no more than 50 feet from the area of likely use.

5. Use Class C extinguishers on fires on or near electrical equipment.

They use carbon dioxide or a dry chemical to put out these fires.

- Never use water on an electrical fire. Water conducts electricity and could cause a dangerous shock to the person holding the extinguisher.
- Class Cs don't have numbers.

6. Use ABC or BC extinguishers on combination fires.

The letters identify the type of fire they can handle.



7. Use Class D extinguishers on combustible metal fires.

They're used on sodium, magnesium, zinc, potassium, powdered aluminum, titanium, and other combustible metal fires.

- They must be within 75 feet of operations that generate combustible metal powders, flakes, or shavings.
- Class Ds are considered "special hazard" protection and have no numbers.

8. Use Class K wet chemical fire extinguishers on cooking oil fires.

- These extinguishers are designed especially for the deep fat fryers used in restaurants.
- They are charged with a potassium-based liquid that reacts with the burning oils to form a foamlike substance.
- Never use water on a cooking oil fire.

9. Use extinguishers properly.

If you feel a fire is small enough to handle with an extinguisher, remember the word PASS. Stand about 8 feet from the fire and:

- Pull the pin at the top of the extinguisher.
- Aim the nozzle carefully at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the trigger to discharge the extinguisher.
- Sweep the nozzle back and forth toward the base of the fire.

After the fire appears to be out, watch it carefully, since it may reignite.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Explain locations and types of fire extinguishers in your work area.
- Ask for volunteers to demonstrate and describe how to use a fire extinguisher.



CONCLUSION:

Know how to choose and when to use a fire extinguisher.

The right extinguisher, properly used, can handle small fires. In all other cases, activate an alarm, and leave the job to trained firefighters.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Fire Extinguishers—Types and Uses quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to understand how to use fire extinguishers and whether you need to review this important topic again soon.



Types of Fire Extinguishers

Class A

- Use on fires involving paper, cloth, trash, wood, and other ordinary combustibles.
- Note the numbers: The higher the number, the larger the fire area it can handle.
- Be careful not to blow burnables and create a larger fire.

Class B

- Use on fires involving gases and flammable liquids such as grease, oil paint, or solvents.
- Note the numbers: They tell the square foot area of fire the extinguisher can handle.

Class C

- Use on fires involving or surrounding electrical equipment.
- NEVER USE WATER ON THESE FIRES!

Class D

- Use on combustible metal fires.

Class K

- Use on cooking oil fires.
- NEVER USE WATER ON THESE FIRES!

KNOW HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER PROPERLY.

Stand about 8 feet from the fire, and:

- PULL the pin.
- AIM at the base of the fire.
- SQUEEZE the trigger.
- SWEEP the nozzle back and forth.

If the fire looks too big, sound the alarm, and let trained firefighters handle it.

