

SafetyToolboxTalks

www.safetytoolboxtalks.com

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are considered first aid appliances. Operators must be trained in their classification and use. When a fire is first detected, THINK SAFETY FIRST!

Sound the alarm

Immediately contact the local Fire Department by dialing 911 if possible.

Provide any and all information requested.

Classification of types of fires and types of portable fire extinguishers:

Class A fires involve ordinary materials such as paper, cloth wood, cardboard, foam, and other rubbish and debris.

Use a Class A or Class ABC fire extinguisher on this type of fire.

Class B fires involve flammable and combustible liquids such as fuels, paints, solvents, and grease.

Use a Class B or Class ABC fire extinguisher!

Do not use a Class A extinguisher on this type of fire. Possibility of spreading the flames.

Class C fires are electrical fires.

Use a Class C or Class ABC fire extinguisher on these types of fires.

Do not use a Class A fire extinguisher on this type of fire. You must disconnect the power source to eliminate these types of fires.

Class D fires involve flammable metals such as magnesium, potassium, and other flammable metals. Must utilize special extinguishing agents to extinguish these types of fires.

Class A, Class B, or Class C fire extinguishers are not designed to extinguish these types of fires.

Class ABC fire extinguishers are designed to be used on all classes of fires except Class D fires.

Class BC fire extinguishers are designed to be used on flammable liquid and electrical fires only.

Follow these operating procedures if/when attempting to extinguish a fire utilizing a fire extinguisher listed above. Do not attempt to extinguish a fire if you are not trained and/or authorized to do so. PASS method of using fire extinguishers:

PULL the retaining pin on the handle of the fire extinguisher. Stand back 8-10 feet from the fire.

AIM the nozzle of the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

SQUEEZE the handle of the extinguisher.

SWEEP the extinguishing agent at the base of the fire.