

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic C053: Fire Extinguisher Use

**Introduction:** Training employees on the use of fire extinguishers and how to prevent fires is an essential first step in fire protection and OSHA requires that workers be informed about fire hazards found in their workplace. Regular inspections and evaluations must be conducted in order to keep workers apprised of changes in the fire hazard potential at the workplace.

**Some common workplace fire hazards are:**

- Electrical fire hazards
- Flammable liquids,
- Hot work (such as welding or cutting),
- Smoking and
- Poor housekeeping.

**What to do in case of a fire** —First and foremost ensure your own safety! Ask yourself; “Do I know how to extinguish a fire?”. You must also know what to do if your efforts fail. When seeing smoke or fire one should use good judgment before deciding to extinguish the blaze. Ask these questions: Is the fire limited in size and spread? Will you have an escape route if something goes wrong? Do you know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher? If you are confident the fire is controllable and your safety ensured, attempt to put it out. If the answer to any of these questions is no, evacuate the area.

**Communicate:** Once you have decided to extinguish the blaze, make every reasonable attempt to tell at least one other person what you are doing. This person should report your activity and alert the appropriate fire department as soon as possible.

**The appropriate fire extinguisher** must be selected. Extinguisher *classification* means the letter classification given an extinguisher to designate the class or classes of fire on which an extinguisher will be effective. Extinguisher *rating* means the numerical rating given to an extinguisher which indicates the extinguishing potential of the unit based on standardized tests. Some extinguishers are rated for more than one class and some are for only one type of fire. Ensure the extinguisher being used is rated for the fire being extinguished.

- **Class A fires** involve ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, cloth, and some rubber and plastic materials.
- **Class B fires** involve flammable or combustible liquids, flammable gases, greases, and some rubber and plastic materials.
- **Class C fires** involve energized electrical equipment which requires the use of electrically nonconductive extinguishing media.
- **Class D fires** involve combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium and potassium.

**Hold the extinguisher** and stand about six feet from the fire. Point the nozzle toward the base of the fire and get ready to release the extinguishing agent. The technique to remember for using an extinguisher is published by the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**. It is known as the P.A.S.S. Technique (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep).

**Conclusion:** Keep firefighting equipment in proper working condition. Inspect all portable fire extinguishers monthly and make sure they are charged and ready for use. Many states require fire extinguishers to be inspected and serviced by a trained professional annually. Keep the appropriate fire extinguishers on hand for the fire hazards found in a particular workplace and ensure workers are trained to determine which extinguishers to use for different types of fires. Follow these guidelines for safe fire extinguisher use.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*