

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Fire Extinguisher Safety

When used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or controlling it until the fire department arrives. Portable extinguishers, intended for the home, are not designed to fight large or spreading fires. However, even against small fires, they are useful only under certain conditions:

- The operator must know how to use the extinguisher. There is no time to read directions during an emergency.
- The extinguisher must be within easy reach and in working order, fully charged.
- Some models are unsuitable for use on grease or electrical fires.

Classes of Fires and Fire Extinguishers

Class “A:” This class involves ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, cloth, rubber, or plastics. The common extinguishing medium is water or dry chemical.

Class “B:” Flammable liquids, grease, or gases are covered under this category. Common extinguishing media are foam, carbon dioxide, or dry chemical.

Class “C:” Live electrical fires are class C fires. CO₂ or dry chemical extinguishers should be used. However, the actual burning products may be class “A” items.

Class “D:” Burning materials include combustible metals such as magnesium and sodium. Special extinguishing agents, approved by recognized testing laboratories, are needed when working with these metals.

Use Your Judgement

When you see smoke or fire you should use your own good judgment before you decide to extinguish the blaze. Ask yourself 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 is ensured, attempt to put it out. If the answer to any of these questions is no, evacuate the area immediately.

