

# TOOLBOX TALK

## JOBSITE HAZARDS



### Fire Extinguishers

Even though your company may be equipped with automatic sprinklers or other means of fire protection, the portable fire extinguisher is the first line of defense in the control of fires at their start.

Most fires in the beginning stage, can be extinguished easily with portable equipment, but only if the equipment is readily accessible and the employee knows how to use it. The reaction time from when the fire is first realized, is extremely important. If time is wasted in a search for the proper fire extinguisher and a review of the operating instructions, a small, easily controlled fire will spread in size and intensity. The fire will get out of control and both lives and equipment will be endangered.

#### Fire Extinguisher Tips

A knowledge of the various types of extinguishers and their location in relation to the jobsite or equipment is necessary for quick and effective employee action. This means that extinguishers should:

- Be selected based on the type of fire.
  - Type A - ordinary combustible
  - Type B - flammable liquids
  - Type C - electrical/energized
  - Type D - flammable metals
- Be well-positioned and clearly marked around a jobsite for quick access. Class A & D fire extinguishers should be no more than 75 feet away from the heat source. Class B & C fire extinguishers should be 50 feet or less away from the heat source
- Be inspected regularly to ensure they are charged and operational

#### The PASS Method

If a fire breaks out and an extinguisher is to be used, make sure you follow the PASS Method:

- Pull the pin from the handle
- Aim the hose at the base of the fire
- Squeeze the handle to release the chemicals
- Sweep the base of the fire until extinguished

The proper training and use of a fire extinguisher can be the difference in preventing a fire from spreading. Knowing where the fire extinguishers are and how to use them should be basic to any effective injury and illness prevention program (IIPP).

# Fire Extinguishers

## Take Home Point:

Fire extinguishers are the frontline defense in fighting fires. Make sure your employees have the proper training and can identify the right type of extinguisher needed for their job. If an extinguisher needs to be used, remember the PASS Method: Pull the pin, Aim the hose, Squeeze the handle, Sweep the base of the fire.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew Members:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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