

## Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are all around us. They are a necessity in the workplace, our homes, and even in vehicles. We are so accustomed to working around fire extinguishers, that we may not actually know where the closest one is located in our work environment. Here is a review of when and how to use fire extinguishers.

### Different Types of Fires:

There are several different types of fires. Depending on the type of fire, depends on what fire extinguisher you should use. The most common fire extinguisher is an ABC fire extinguisher, and will work for class A, B, and C fires.

**Class A Fires:** Involves materials such as wood, paper, cardboard, cloth, plastic, and garbage.

**Class B Fires:** Involves flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, oil, paint thinners, and grease

**Class C Fires:** Involves energized electrical equipment such as appliances, switches, outlets, and power tools

**Class D Fires:** Involves combustible metals such as magnesium and titanium. Requires class D Extinguisher.

**Class K Fires:** Is mostly a kitchen fire and involves cooking oil and fat. Use a wet chemical extinguisher.

### Extinguisher Care and Maintenance:

- Fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and clearly marked.
- They cannot be blocked by equipment or materials.
- Extinguishers must be mounted and always within 75 feet
- Kept clean
- Inspected monthly (initialed on inspection tag)
- Inspected annually by an outside agency

### Properly Using a Fire Extinguisher:

No matter what type of fire extinguisher you are using, you can always remember the acronym PASS to ensure proper use.

**P**ull the pin. The pin keeps the handle from being accidentally pressed when not in use.

**A**im the nozzle at the base of the fire, while standing 8 to 10 feet back.

**S**queeze the handle to discharge the extinguisher.

**S**weep the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire, to ensure you cover as much area as possible.

### When to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

A fire extinguisher should only be used on small fires and to help escape the building. A ten pound fire extinguisher will only last 10-30 seconds. That is not enough time to put out a large fire. Instead, exit the building and make your way to your outside collection point.