



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – FIRE PREVENTION

October 2023

Introduction:

- Fire extinguishers are essential firefighting tools that can prevent small fires from becoming major disasters.
- Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher correctly can save lives and property.

Types of Fire Extinguishers:

There are different types of fire extinguishers designed to combat specific types of fires:

1. **Class A:** For fires involving ordinary combustibles like paper, wood, cloth, and plastics.
2. **Class B:** For flammable liquid fires, such as oil, gasoline, or grease.
3. **Class C:** For fires involving electrical equipment or wiring.
4. **Class D:** For fires involving combustible metals (e.g., magnesium or titanium). Not typically found in most workplaces.
5. **Class K:** For fires in commercial kitchens, including cooking oils and fats.



Using a Fire Extinguisher (PASS Method):

1. **Pull:** Pull the pin to unlock the extinguisher.
2. **Aim:** Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, not the flames.
3. **Squeeze:** Squeeze the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent.
4. **Sweep:** Sweep the nozzle from side to side, covering the entire fire with the extinguishing agent.



When to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

- Use a fire extinguisher only when:
 - The fire is small and contained.
 - You have the appropriate type of fire extinguisher.
 - You have a clear escape route.

Fire Extinguisher Safety Tips:

- Always position yourself with an exit or escape route at your back.
- Ensure you have the right type of fire extinguisher for the fire.
- Keep the extinguisher within its operating temperature range.
- Maintain a safe distance from the fire while using the extinguisher.
- Aim at the base of the flames, not the top.
- Use short bursts, not a continuous stream, to conserve the extinguishing agent.
- If the fire isn't extinguished after using the entire extinguisher, evacuate immediately and call emergency services.



Inspecting Fire Extinguishers:

- Regularly inspect extinguishers for damage, tampering, or pressure issues.
- Ensure the pressure gauge is in the green zone.
- Verify that the pull pin is securely in place.

Reporting Issues:

- Report any damaged or missing fire extinguishers to your supervisor or Safety and Security immediately.