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Safety at a Glance

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General Industry- *Proper Fire Extinguishers*

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Inside This Issue

Fire extinguishers do not normally attract undue attention in the workplace. Perhaps it is felt that if you ignore it you will never have to use it? However, in the event of an emergency that device hanging on the wall could mean the difference between serious injury or death or significant property loss. Here are a few useful fire extinguisher tips.

Management must choose to lead the safety program for it to be successful!

SAFE USE OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Fire extinguishers are to be provided and distributed based on classes of fire, and on the size and degree of hazard which would affect their cause.

REMEMBER!
*Observe,
Evaluate,
Record,
Review, and
Correct!*



• **Class A fire extinguishers are to be placed so that the travel distance for employee to any extinguisher is 75 feet or less.**

• **Class B fire extinguishers are to be placed within 50 feet or less of affected employees.**

• **Class C fire extinguishers are to be located based on the appropriate pattern for existing Class A or Class B hazards.**

**"JOB SAFETY IS
FIRST AID TO
THE
UNINJURED"**

*George
Bradford -
Railroad Safety
Engineer*

1913

- **We recommend that ABC type extinguisher be used on the appropriate pattern for existing Class A or Class B hazards.)**

- **Class D fire extinguishers for combustible metal working areas are to be placed within 75 feet or less of the employees working station.**

- **Fire extinguishers are to be inspected, maintained in proper working order and tested as required.**

OSHA'S TOP TEN VIOLATIONS FOR 2021

- **Fall Protection – General Requirements (1926.501)**
- **Respiratory Protection (1910.134)**
- **Ladders (1926.1053)**
- **Scaffolding (1926.451)**
- **Hazard Communication (1910.1200)**
- **Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)**
- **Fall Protection – Training Requirements (1926.503)**
- **Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment – Eye and Face Protection (1926.102)**
- **Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)**
- **Machine Guarding (1910.212)**

MORE FIRE EXTINGUISHER TIPS

OSHA Standard 1910.157 outlines the requirements that companies must follow to ensure there are adequate numbers of fire extinguishers based on the type of fire hazards present. The standard also requires annual and monthly inspections, easy access and training for employees on how and when to use a fire extinguisher.

In order to comply with the standard and protect facilities in case of a fire, the ABC multipurpose type fire extinguishers are effective on all 3 major types of fires:

A type	Common Combustibles
B type	Flammable Liquids and Vapors
C type	Electrical

They are located throughout the plant. They are hung up in a clear accessible area. There is either a sign above each fire extinguisher or a red stripe painted on the column so employees can locate one quickly in case of a fire. Fire extinguishers in the plant are the 10 lb. model. When fully charged, they will last between 20 and 30 seconds.

Important Note: These fire extinguishers are not to be used on large fires. In this case, all employees are to evacuate the plant and offices using the nearest exit.

- 1 Fire extinguishers are to be inspected annually. Inspection cards are to be completed upon the completion of the annual inspection. They will take out of service any fire extinguisher that needs repaired. They also do the required hydrostatic testing and maintain the records.
- 2 All fire extinguishers will be in fully charged and operable condition and kept in their designated location.
- 3 All fire extinguishers are to be inspected monthly by the internal maintenance department. The following items are checked:
 - ✓ The fire extinguisher is hung up in an easily accessible area with at least a two-foot-wide access area.
 - ✓ The lock pin is in place.
 - ✓ The pressure gauge is in the normal operating range (fully charged).
 - ✓ The hose and nozzle are in good shape.
 - ✓ The fire extinguisher sign or marking is high enough to be seen easily.
 - ✓ There are no obstructions that interfere with quick access.

- 4 The card on the fire extinguisher is to have the initial of the person doing the inspection marked next to the month on the card.
- 5 **Fire extinguishers needing repair are to be taken out of service and replaced with one in operable condition.**

EMPLOYEE TRAINING IN FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

All new employees will be trained in the basic operation of the fire extinguisher and annual training will be conducted for all employees. The following items will be covered in the classroom training:

Before Operating the Fire Extinguisher:

- Review of the OSHA standard on Use of Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Type of fire extinguishers available in the plant (10-pound ABC models)
- Where the fire extinguishers are located
- The dangers a fire imposes:
 - Smoke
 - Heat
- Location of Emergency Exits
- Notification of other employees of a fire
- The importance of sizing up the situation. **If the fire is too big, get out ASAP.**

What to do in case a fire starts?

- If the fire is small (incipient stage) and you feel confident, find the nearest fire extinguisher.
- Notify another employee to serve as a backup.
- Leave your back to the nearest exit that works.
- Stay calm and do not hurry.
- Pick up the fire extinguisher with both hands. Place your off hand under the fire extinguisher and your dominant hand under the handle.
- Keep your thumb off the activating lever. The fire extinguisher will not operate. Sit the fire extinguisher down.
- Pull the safety pin out. Twist the pin hard first to break the plastic safety tie.
- Walk up to the fire. Do not run.
- Once you feel the heat on your face, you are close enough. Back up if necessary. Stand no closer than 4 to 6 feet from the fire.
- Place your feet shoulder distance apart with your off leg one half step in front (boxer stance).

- Take the hose and aim to the side of the fire at the base.
- Put your thumb over the activating lever and squeeze down firmly.
- Sweep the hose along the base of the fire back and forth. Force the fire back and away from you.
- Make sure the fire is completely out.
- Once the fire is put out, put the fire extinguisher to the side. Open all doors and windows. Get out a fan and start to blow the smoke out.
- When the fire department arrives, let them review the situation to make sure the fire is completely out.
- After the fire department ok's, get a forklift, pick up moveable materials, and take outside.
- Clean up the area.
- Replace the fire extinguisher.

Note: ABC 10 lb. fire extinguishers only supply power for between 20 to 30 seconds. It is important to aim at the base of the fire and follow the **PASS Method**:

- **P**ull the Pin
- **A**im the hose at the base of the fire
- **S**queeze the activating lever
- **S**weep all the way across the base of the fire.

If at any time you are not confident or are having trouble putting the fire out, immediately evacuate the building.