

TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The most common type of extinguisher utilized in the workplace is the ABC dry chemical. Portable fire extinguishers are named and labeled for the types of fires they are designed to extinguish. An ABC dry chemical extinguisher is designed to extinguish a fire that is fueled by class A, B or C materials. The purpose of this safety minute is to familiarize you with the ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher and then to cover when and how to use one.

Class A fires consist of ordinary combustible materials such as cardboard, paper, wood, dried vegetation and trash. Basically, anything that leaves an ash after it has burned.

Class B fires consist of flammable and combustible liquids, such as gasoline, diesel, oil, oil-based paints and many solvents.

Class C fires consist of fires that involve appliances, tools and other equipment that are plugged in or otherwise electrically energized, as well as fires burning near electrically energized equipment.

It is important to be sure you have the correct type of extinguisher before you attempt to fight a fire. Using the wrong extinguisher can be dangerous. Before attempting to fight a fire, be sure the fire alarm has been activated or call 911 and assist any person in immediate danger in exiting the building as well. If there is any question about regarding your safety, do not attempt to fight the fire, evacuate to a safe area.

Only fight a fire if:

- It is small and contained
- You are safe from toxic smoke
- You have a means of escape
- Your instincts tell you it is ok

How to use an extinguisher (PASS):

- Pull the pin
- Aim it at the base of the flames
- Squeeze the operating lever
- Sweep the nozzle or hose slowly from side to side until the fire is out.

Portable fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly by the property owner to ensure they are not damaged, discharged or missing. Extinguishers should be inspected annually by a vendor that can repair, recharge and recertify their readiness.



TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY SIGN-IN SHEET

COUNTY/AGENCY: _____

DATE OF TRAINING: _____ PRESENTER: _____

TOPIC(S): _____

Print Name

Signature

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