

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safety Tips: Fire Extinguisher



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As we know, all fires can be very dangerous and life threatening. Your personal safety should always be of a primary concern when you are attempting to fight a fire.

DECIDING TO FIGHT A FIRE, BE CERTAIN THAT:

- The fire is small and not spreading. A fire can double its size in 2 or 3 minutes.
- You have the proper type of extinguisher for what is burning.
- The fire won't block your exit if you can't control it. A good hint to accomplish is keep the exit to your back
- You know that your fire extinguisher works. You should check the extinguisher every month for, dents, leaks, or signs of damage. Be assured that the unit is fully charged (the hand on the gauge should be in the green).
- You know how to use the extinguisher. (There isn't enough time to read the instructions when a fire occurs).

4 THINGS TO REMEMBER IN FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

- ✓ **Use your judgment** – When you see fire or smoke, use good judgment in the decision of whether to fight or get help.

Ask yourself 3 questions:

~Is the fire limited in size and spread?

~Have I got an escape route, if needed?

~Where is the nearest fire extinguisher?

If you can answer these 3 questions positively in your minds, then you are probably ready to fight the fire. If not, then evacuate quickly and seek help.

- ✓ **Communicate** – Once your decision is made to fight the fire, inform at least 1 person as to where you are and what you're doing. That person should report this to a second person. There is never too much communication in these situations.
- ✓ **Ready the Extinguisher** – Be sure to select the right extinguisher for the fire. Extinguishers come in several classes and have specific uses. Be sure that the extinguisher is rated for the job that it is intended.

Fire Extinguisher Types –

Class A – Use for ordinary combustibles like wood, paper, rubber and many types of plastics.

Class B – Use for flammable liquids such as gasoline, grease, tar, oil-based Paint, lacquer-based paint.

Class C – Use on energized electrical equipment including wiring, Fuse boxes, circuit breakers, and appliances.

Class D – Use on flammable solids, such as magnesium.

Class K – Use on Kitchen fires where cooking oils and fats are prevalent.

- ✓ **Use it** – We shall assume that the extinguisher is in hand and ready to use. Make sure that the nozzle is aimed toward the fire before squeezing the nozzle; if it is not, valuable time and extinguishing agent will be wasted.

Readying the extinguisher-

- Quickly and carefully remove the extinguisher from the bracket. Be careful. It may be heavy.
- Stand about 6 feet from the fire.
- Extend the nozzle towards the fire.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has a technique for using the fire extinguisher which is known as "The P.A.S.S technique."

P – PULL – the pin that secures the handle

A – AIM – the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.

S – SQUEEZE – the handle. (Don't be nervous, as the sound and velocity of the agent is quite loud.

S – SWEEP – the stream of agent from side to side across the Base of the fire until it is completely out. Watch out for re-ignition. If this happens, spray the fire until the extinguisher is out of agent.

Once you determine that the fire is out, back away carefully, being sure that the fire doesn't re-ignite. Knowing how to use an extinguisher is an important skill to know, but it is just as important to know when you can't extinguish the blaze. You then need to evacuate the area immediately.

It's good to familiarize yourself with using an extinguisher before a fire breaks out. Know what hazards exist and what type of unit will be needed for the type of fires within your work areas.

OTHER SAFETY TIPS

- Notify your supervisor or manager if you spot a fire extinguisher with a missing safety pin, a gauge that has been discharged, or a tag indicating that it has not been serviced. Don't try to use that extinguisher.
- Immediately leave the area if the fire begins to spread.
- If you can do it safely, turn off the power in the area before fighting an electrical fire.
- Stay low if you are inside a burning building. You will breathe in less smoke near the floor.
- Don't try to fight a fire unless you have been trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers.
- Get other people to safety before trying to fight the fire.
- Immediately notify or have someone to notify them for you.
- Look for an escape route. Don't fight a fire unless you are certain you can safely get out of the area.
- Only fight a fire if you are comfortable in doing so. Don't panic and don't try to be a hero.

***PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY
WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!!***

***◁THINK SAFETY---
ACT SAFELY▷***

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Excerpts: www.webworldinc.com /www.fire-extinguisher101.com
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