

# Fire Extinguishers

Complies with 29 CFR 1910.157



## Basic Fire Protection Equipment

### *ABC Fire Extinguishers...*

A-B-C Fire Extinguisher means that it will extinguish class “A” fires, class “B” fires & class “C” fires.

- Class A fires are combustible fires and are caused by the ignition of wood, paper, cloth and rubbish.
- Class B fires are flammable liquid fires that are caused by flammable gas/liquids.
- Class C fires are electrical fires and are caused by electrical applications, such as faulty electrical wiring.

Class A-B-C extinguishers are basically composed of a dry chemical pressurized with an inert gas.

### *Fire extinguisher inspections...*

As you work, pay attention to extinguishers to see if they are in a serviceable condition.

- Inspect the outside shell to ensure that it has not been damaged. Remember, extinguishers are pressurized and can explode if damaged.
- Also, check to be sure that the gauge on the extinguisher is reading in the green. Too little pressure or too much pressure requires maintenance or service.

- Be sure to check the pin on the handle, it should be in place and a plastic seal should be installed.

### *Use of Extinguishers...*

If you use the extinguisher, even one time, it must be removed and re-serviced. Once you use an extinguisher, it will continue to leak gas and in 2-3 days, it will be fully discharged and unusable until recharged.



### **Fire extinguisher Do's:**

- Inspect on a monthly basis
- Inspections must be documented on the fire extinguisher tag
- Maintain a 100-ft. travel distance to a fire extinguisher

### *Fire Watch...*

Suitable fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available when welding

During welding operations, an individual (other than the welder) must be present to prevent or protect against fire. This person must also remain at the welding area 30 minutes after welding to ensure that there are no smoldering fires.

## Operating A Fire Extinguisher

### *Operating an extinguisher...*

- Hold the extinguisher and break the seal on the pin.
- Pull the pin. Stand about 3-5 feet away from the fire.
- Aim the nozzle towards the base of the fire. *Note: Standing too close can spread the fire when the extinguisher is activated. Stand back, then move in toward the fire.*
- To activate the extinguisher, simply push the handle and sweep the dry chemical back and forth over the base of the fire.

**Just remember to:**  
**P – Pull**  
**A – Aim**  
**S – Squeeze**  
**S – Sweep**

## Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

- ✓ Annual maintenance checks must be performed every year.
- ✓ Maintenance records must be retained for one year after the last entry or the life of the extinguisher shell, whichever is less.
- ✓ Hydrostatic testing must be performed at required intervals based on the type of extinguisher (usually every 5 years).
- ✓ Hydrostatic testing must also be performed when extinguishers show evidence of corrosion or mechanical injury.

## General Rules for Fire Safety

- ✓ Keep flammables in a flammable cabinet
- ✓ Don't smoke or operate equipment that sparks or ignites around flammable or combustible material
- ✓ When welding, burning or cutting, have a fire watch (a person to watch the area for 30 minutes after burning to ensure that there is no smoldering material that could cause a fire.

Note: 30 minutes is the OSHA regulation, but "Best Management Practice" is an hour