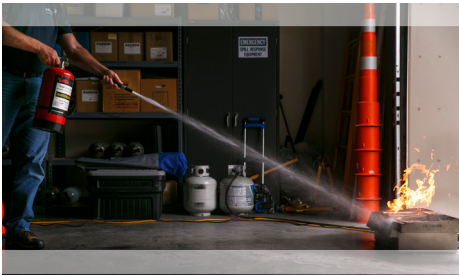




Toolbox TALK



P.A.S.S. IT ON: FIRE EXTINGUISHER BASICS



Whether you're at work or at home, the most crucial factor to consider when using a fire extinguisher is personal safety. A typical ABC dry-chemical 10-pound fire extinguisher usually lasts up to 20 seconds, with a noticeable loss of pressure and extinguishing agents occurring at around 12 to 14 seconds. Smaller 2.5-pound units, which are often mounted in industrial vehicles and found in home settings, typically last 8 to 12 seconds. Fire extinguishers are intended to put out small fires in their incipient stage.

It is essential to recognize that fire extinguishers offer limited means of suppression and are primarily intended for personal safety and egress, rather than fighting large fires. Quickly assess the situation before using a fire extinguisher, and only attempt to put out the fire if you have adequate training and feel confident you can do so without creating additional hazards for yourself or others. If the fire is larger than a trash can, don't attempt to put it out with a small, standard fire extinguisher. Instead, pull the fire alarm and evacuate the area.

REMEMBER

A fire that ***appears extinguished*** can sometimes reignite unexpectedly. Remain ready with an extinguisher in case the fire flares up again, and continue wetting the area with water to ensure the fire stays out.

RENEW

P.A.S.S. IT ON: FIRE EXTINGUISHER BASICS

HOW TO PROPERLY USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER



If you need to use a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym **PASS**.

P = Pull the pin.

Grab the extinguisher, hold it away from your body or brace it on the ground, and pull the pin.

A = Aim.

Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire, where the fuel source is. Avoid spraying the flames or smoke, as this will not extinguish the fire.

S = Squeeze.

Slowly squeeze the lever while keeping the nozzle pointed at the base of the fire. Expect a quick kick and burst as the pressure releases.

S = Sweep.

Sweep the extinguisher side to side along the base of the fire, continuing to squeeze the lever until the fire goes out.

If you cannot extinguish the fire, evacuate immediately and pull the fire alarm. Do not attempt to grab another extinguisher.

Date:

ATTENDANCE RECORD

SUPERVISOR:

CREW MEMBERS PRESENT:

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK: