

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

FIRE IS A THREAT ON MANY WORKSITES, ESPECIALLY WHERE HOT WORK, OPEN FLAMES, FLAMMABLE PRODUCTS AND FLAMMABLE MATERIALS ARE USED.

KNOW WHERE THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE AND HOW TO USE THEM SAFELY.

- **FIRE EXTINGUISHER SITE REQUIREMENTS**
- **FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSIFICATIONS**
- **HOW TO OPERATE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER**



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

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FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SITE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **ACCESSIBLE:** Fire extinguishers must be in a near by location to fire hazard and access must not be blocked by debris or objects
- 2) **INSPECTED REGULARLY:** Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly as part of your worksite inspections and each year by a trained and qualified person.
- 3) **PROMPTLY REFILLED AFTER USE.** Once you have discharged an extinguisher, take it to the shop and report it immediately to your supervisor.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSIFICATIONS

Fire extinguishers are classified according to their capacity to fight specific kinds of fires.

CLASS A – for fires of ordinary combustible materials such as wood and paper where you need a quenching, cooling effect.

CLASS B – for flammable liquid and gas fires such as oil, gasoline, paint and grease where you need oxygen exclusion or flame interruption.

CLASS C – for fires involving electrical wiring and equipment where you need a non-conductive extinguishing agent. **CLASS D** – for fires in combustible metals such as sodium, magnesium, and potassium.

HOW TO OPERATE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

When operating a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- 1) Pull the pin. Hold the **extinguisher** with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- 2) Aim low. Point the **extinguisher** at the base of the **fire**.
- 3) Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- 4) Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

Extinguishers have a very short duration of discharge—usually less than 60 seconds. Within that limited duration, you have got to use the extinguisher effectively.

Every worker who may be required to use fire extinguishing equipment should be trained to use it.



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