

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher safely is an important part of workplace safety. You should only use one if you've been trained, the fire is small and containable, and if you have a clear escape route.

Know where fire extinguishers are located and which types of fires they're designed to handle. Before using an extinguisher, activate the fire alarm and emergency response first.

Always keep a clear exit path behind you and never allow a fire to come between you and your escape route. If fire or smoke blocks your escape route, evacuate immediately.

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS **BEFORE** YOU EXTINGUISH:

- RISKS
- SAFETY TIPS
- TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY



RISKS:

- Delaying evacuation by trying to fight a fire that is unsafe to control
- Smoke inhalation and reduced visibility
- Missing, damaged, blocked or discharged fire extinguishers
- A fire spreading beyond your ability to control it
- No clear escape route while using an extinguisher

SAFETY TIPS:

- Know your company's fire response procedures, especially for combustible dust fires.
- Inspect fire extinguishers regularly in accordance with the BC Fire Code. Check that the pressure gauge is in the proper range, the safety pin and seal are intact, the hose is in good condition, the label is legible and the extinguisher is easy to access. If any deficiencies are found, report them immediately and ensure it is inspected and serviced by a qualified fire protection professional or replace it.
- Report missing, damaged, blocked or discharged extinguishers.
- Only use a fire extinguisher if you are trained and it is safe to do so.
- Know where extinguishers are located and which fire classes they are designed for.
- Activate emergency response before fighting a fire.
- Always keep a clear escape route behind you.
- Use the **PASS** method: **P**ull the pin, **A**im at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the handle, **S**weep from side to side.
- Evacuate immediately if the fire grows or smoke blocks your escape route.

TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:



REMEMBER

A fire extinguisher is for small, controllable fires only. If you're unsure, don't take the risk. Evacuate the area and follow emergency procedures.

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