FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire prevention and good housekeeping go hand in hand for obvious reasons, not only on the job-site but in the home and office as well. Fires can start anywhere, at anytime, and this is why it's so important to know how to use a fire extinguisher correctly and also to know which extinguisher to use for different types of fires.

CLASS 'A' FIRES

These fires consist of wood, paper, rags, rubbish and ordinary combustible materials, the kinds of materials typically found on a construction site.

- Recommend Extinguishers: Water, through use of a hose, pump-type water cans, pressurized extinguishers, and (ABC) dry chemical extinguishers.
- **Fighting the Fire**: Put lots of water on the fire and soak it completely, even the embers.



CLASS 'B' FIRES

These fires consist of flammable liquids, oil and grease.

- Recommended Extinguishers: (ABC) dry chemical type, foam, and carbon dioxide. Any of these will do a good job extinguishing the fire.
- **Fighting the Fire:** Start at the base of the fire and use a sweeping motion from left to right always keeping the fire in front of you.

CLASS 'C' FIRES

These are electrical fires, usually dealing with some type of electrical equipment.

- **Recommended Extinguishers:** Carbon dioxide and (ABC) dry chemical type.
- Fighting the Fire: Use short bursts on the fire. When the electrical current is shut off on a "Class 'C' Fire, it can become a Class A' Fire if materials around the original fire are ignited.

CLASS 'D' FIRES

These are fires dealing with combustible metals.

- Recommended Extinguishers: Class (D) designed specifically for class D fires only. These extinguishers use special agents approved by recognized testing laboratories.
- Fighting the Fire: Follow the fire extinguisher manufacture's recommendations.

CLASS 'K' FIRES

These are fires involving cooking oils, trans-fats, or fats in cooking appliances.

- **Recommended Extinguishers:** Use Class (K) extinguisher. This type of fire extinguisher is for commercial kitchens, including those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and catering operations.
- Fighting the Fire: Follow the fire extinguisher manufacture's recommendations.

REMEMBER!

The key to all fire extinguishers is knowing how to use them properly, be sure they're always available in your work area. It's too late to go searching for one when a fire breaks out. Post Emergency Phone Numbers at each telephone, on the job and at home.

Safety Starts with You!



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