

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

Fire Extinguisher

Facility:	Written By:	Approved By:	Date Created:	Date of Last Revision:
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Hazards Present:	PPE Required:	Additional Training Required:
Inhalation of smoke Inhalation of chemicals / toxins Inhalation of carbon monoxide Burns	Safety footwear Face shield Hand protection / gloves Respiratory protection	Fire extinguisher training

Types of Fires:

To help in choosing the proper extinguisher, fires are classed A, B, C or D according to the type of fuel (ie. Paper, grease, oil) that is involved in the fire. Extinguishers are available for use on one or more classes of fire, depending on the extinguishing agent they contain (eg. Water, chemicals).

Some extinguishers are suitable for one class of fire only; others can fight two or even three classes of fire. However no extinguisher will fight all four classes of fire. The following table gives examples of specific types of fire extinguishers, and the class(es) of fire on which they can be used.

Fuel Source	Class of Fire	Type of Extinguisher
Ordinary combustibles (ie. Trash, wood, paper, cloth, etc.)	A	Water; chemical foam; dry chemical
Flammable liquids (ie. Oils, grease, tar, gasoline, paints, thinners)	B	Carbon dioxide (CO ₂); halon*; dry chemical
Electricity (ie. Live electrical equipment)	C	CO ₂ ; halon*; dry chemical
Combustible materials (ie. Magnesium, titanium)	D	Dry powder (suitable for the specific combustible metal involved)

*Halon extinguishers are no longer made, but some may still be in use.

Specific Types of Fire Extinguishers and Their Uses

Water	Multi Purpose Dry Chemical	Chemical Foam	Compressed Gas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressurized pump type • Cools fire • Use on Class A fires • Do not use on electrical fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stored pressure type • Smothers fire with layer of powder • Use on Class A, B and C fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) type • Smothers fire with foam • Use on Class A and B fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halon, CO₂ types • Smothers fire with gas • Use on Class B and C fires

Using the wrong extinguisher to fight a fire can have serious results. For example, if a water-based extinguisher is used on a flammable liquid (Class B fire), the fire may flare up, spread and cause personal injury to the user and others.

Fighting the Fire:

Type of Fire	Fighting the Fire
A	Soak the fire completely – even the smoking embers
B	Start at the base of the fire and use a swinging motion from left to right, always keeping the fire in front of you
C	Use short bursts on the fire. When electrical current is shut off on a Class C fire, it can become a Class A fire, if the materials around the electrical fire are ignited
D	Follow manufacturer's instructions

General Precautions

1. Fire extinguisher caps shall not be interchanged
2. Water or water extinguishers shall not be used on electrical fires
3. Dry chemical shall be blown from the extinguisher hose after use, by turning the extinguisher upside down and squeezing control lever
4. All extinguishers shall be inspected at regular intervals and shall be tagged with the date of inspection and/or refill
5. All extinguishers shall be promptly refilled after use
6. The contents of all extinguishers shall be projected on a fire from the windward side and directed at its base or outer edge of fire with a sweeping motion
7. All instructions of the manufacturer as to the recharging of the extinguisher and its maintenance shall be followed

Safe Work Procedure:

- As soon as a fire is discovered, sound the alarm and start to evacuate
- Call the fire department
- If fire is small, call for assistance, and attempt to extinguish
- If fire is large do not endanger yourself attempting to extinguish it; and leave the area
- Remove applicable extinguisher from hanger
- Carry extinguisher in upright position to fire
- Pull pin of extinguisher, release the lock latch or press the punch lever. Hold hose or horn in one hand
- Test that the extinguisher works before you approach the fire. Protect yourself at all times
- Keep your back to the exit at all times and stand 6 to 8 feet away from the fire
- Pull the trigger, aiming at base of fire, squeeze the handle and use with a sweeping motion
- If the fire does not go out immediately or the extinguisher appears to be getting empty, leave the area at once. Back out with the lever squeezed and the nozzle pointed at your feet. This will protect you until you are out of the area
- Report use of extinguisher
- Take extinguisher out of service and have it re-charged

Maintenance and Inspections

Fire extinguishers must be inspected at least once a month by either the site supervisor or the safety coordinator, which shall include the following:

- In working order
- Fully charged
- Not damaged
- Ring pin is in place
- Seal is intact
- Hose is not cracked or corroded

The inspection tag that is attached to the extinguisher will record the inspection.

If an emergency situation occurs while conducting this task, or there is an equipment malfunction, engage the emergency stop and follow the lockout procedure.

REPORT ANY HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS TO YOUR SUPERVISOR

Guidance Documents/Standards: Operator/Owner's Manual MB Workplace Safety & Health Regulation 217/2006: 2.1.1 Safe work procedures 6 Personal Protective Equipment 19.3 Fire and Explosive Hazards – General Requirements	This Safe Work Procedure will be reviewed at any time the task, equipment or materials change and at a minimum of every three years.
	Reviewed: Date: July 6, 2013