

“For Safety’s Sake - Do Something”

FIRE EXTINGUISHER BASICS



To avoid putting workers in danger, fire extinguishers should be located throughout the workplace and readily accessible in the event of a fire. You can usually find them in hallways, meeting rooms, kitchens, mechanical / electrical rooms, and near exit doors.

Employer Responsibility:

- Providing portable fire extinguishers and mounting, locating, and identifying them so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury.
- Providing the correct type of fire extinguisher for the workplace. This is often times a multi-purpose fire extinguisher.
- Assuring that portable fire extinguishers are maintained, fully charged, operate properly, and are kept in designated places at all times, except during use.

Your Responsibility:

- Knowing where the fire extinguisher’s are located at your place of work.
- Knowing how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Just remember PASS:

Pull the pin

Aim at the base of the fire

Squeeze the lever

Sweep sided to side.

For more information about fire extinguisher requirements in the workplace please visit: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable.html>

Did you know there are different types of fire extinguishers to use depending on the type of flammable substances in your work environment. The label on the fire extinguisher identifies which type of flammable materials it made for.



Class A flammable substances are basic materials like paper, cloth, wood, rubber, and plastics.



Class B flammable substances are liquids such as oils, gas, paints, lacquers, grease, and solvents.



Class C flammable substances are electrical based like wiring, fuse boxes, energized electrical equipment, computers, and other electrical sources.



Class D flammable substances involve powders, flakes, or shavings of combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, potassium, and sodium.



Class K flammable substances are cooking oils and fats.

More importantly, the most common fire extinguisher used (the one we use at SSOE) is a multi-purpose extinguisher that works on class A, B, and C fires. This means you don’t have to waste time trying to identify the type of extinguisher, just get that fire out!