



Safety Tip of the Week

Handling Fires

The best way to prevent workplace fires is to be aware of, and on the lookout for, potential fire hazards. All hazardous situations should be reported to your supervisor. Know the location of fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment that is available to you. During an actual emergency, protect yourself. Do not get involved if it is not safe.

If you ever discover a fire, keep calm, and think fast, acting with caution. Quickly size up the scene; knowing when to attempt extinguishing the fire yourself and when to call for help is essential.



Remember...P-A-S-S When Using an Extinguisher:

Be sure to remember the PASS operating technique for portable fire extinguishers. PASS stands for:

P – Pull the pin. Pulling the pin unlocks the operating lever or button so you can discharge the extinguisher. Stand at least 6 to 8 feet from the fire.

A – Aim low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire.

S – Squeeze the lever below the handle. Squeezing the lever discharges the contents of the extinguisher. When you release the lever, the discharge stops. Some models have a button to press rather than a lever.

S – Moving carefully toward the fire, keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep from side to side until the flames appear to be out.

The most common extinguisher is the multipurpose dry chemical type. It can be used for any class or fire. However, if the tag on the extinguisher is not labeled ABC, you must know on which type of fire the extinguisher can be used.

Most extinguishers will only allow about 10 seconds of extinguishing media. Prevention is the key when it comes to firefighting. Good housekeeping, proper storage procedures, and safe work practices will go a long way toward reducing the likelihood that a fire will injure you and other employees.

DON'T LET YOUR FUTURE GO UP IN SMOKE... HAVE A FIRE PLAN!