

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fires can start unexpectedly and spread quickly, especially in our work environment. Knowing how to respond in those first few moments is critical. That's why it's essential not only to know where fire extinguishers are located, but also how to use them properly. Employers must ensure employees understand the proper selection, placement, use, and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers, and are prepared to respond safely in the event of a fire.

OSHA Requirements Overview

29 CFR 1910.157 (General Industry) Highlights:

- Employers must provide approved portable fire extinguishers.
- Extinguishers must be mounted, located, and identified so they are easily accessible.
- Must be maintained fully charged and operable.
- Employees expected to use extinguishers must receive annual training.
- Extinguishers must be inspected monthly and serviced annually.

29 CFR 1926.150 (Construction) Highlights:

- Fire extinguishers must be provided and maintained in working condition.
- Must be placed within 100 feet of every work area.
- At least one extinguisher must be available on each floor.
- Extinguishers must be rated not less than 2A for general use.
- Employees must be trained in fire extinguisher use.

Types of Fire Extinguishers

Class A – For ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, cloth)











Class B – For flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, paint)

Class C – For electrical fires

Class D – For combustible metals

Class K – For kitchen fires (cooking oils and fats)

Know which type is available in your work area.

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|--|---|------------------------------|---|
|  |  | Ordinary Combustibles | Wood, Paper, Cloth, Etc. |
|  |  | Flammable Liquids | Grease, Oil, Paint, Solvents |
|  |  | Live Electrical Equipment | Electrical Panel, Motor, Wiring, Etc. |
|  |  | Combustible Metal | Magnesium, Aluminum, Etc. |
|  |  | Commercial Cooking Equipment | Cooking Oils, Animal Fats, Vegetable Oils |

Using the PASS Method

P – Pull the pin

A – Aim at the base of the fire

S – Squeeze the handle

S – Sweep side to side

Safety Reminders

- If a fire occurs, always alert others and call emergency services if needed.
- Assess the fire – Only attempt to extinguish small, contained fires.
- Know your exit – Always keep a clear path behind you; never turn your back on a fire.

- If the fire spreads or you feel unsafe, evacuate immediately.
- Recharge or replace used extinguishers immediately.

Training

- If you expect your workers to use portable fire extinguishers, you must provide hands-on training in using this equipment.
- Demonstrate the PASS method with a real or training extinguisher.
- Let each participant practice aiming and squeezing.
- Discuss common mistakes (e.g., aiming too high, standing too close).
- Discuss when to fight a fire vs. evacuate.

Fires can start unexpectedly and spread quickly. Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher properly can prevent injuries, save lives, and minimize property damage. Hands-on training ensures you're confident and capable in an emergency.

GCSC Resources

Safety Training: 6:00am – 3:00pm / Questions? csr@mygcsc.com

Hands-On Fire Extinguisher (Instructor Led) – 08FIREXT

Visit www.mygcsc.com to register!