

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC M038: FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

Introduction: Knowing how to use fire extinguishers and how to prevent fires is an essential first step in fire protection and OSHA requires that employees know about the fire hazards in the workplace. The company requires regular inspections and evaluations of the workplace to keep workers aware of changes in the fire hazard potential at the workplace.

Some common workplace fire hazards are:

- Electrical fire hazards
- Hot work (such as welding or cutting)
- Poor housekeeping
- Flammable liquids
- Smoking

What to do in case of a fire:

First, ensure your own safety! Ask yourself, “Do I know how to put out the fire?” You also need to know what to do if your efforts fail. If you see smoke or fire, think before trying to put out the fire.

Ask these questions:

- How big is the fire?
- Will I have an escape route if something goes wrong?
- Do I know where the nearest fire extinguisher is?

If you’re sure you can control the fire and you’ll be safe, attempt to put it out. If the answer to any of these questions is no, evacuate the area.

Communicate: Once you’ve decided to fight the fire, make sure you tell at least one other person what you’re doing. That person must report your activity and notify the fire department as soon as possible.

Make sure you’re using the right fire extinguisher. Fire extinguishers use a letter classification to identify the type of fire they can be used on. They also have a numerical rating to indicate the size of the fire they’re designed to handle, the higher the number the larger the fire it can be used on. Some extinguishers are rated for more than one class and some are for only one type of fire. Make sure the extinguisher you’re using is rated for the fire you’re fighting.

- **Class A Extinguisher** are intended to fight fires involving ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, cloth, and some rubber and plastic materials
- **Class B Extinguishers** are used on fire involving flammable or combustible liquids, flammable gases, greases, and some rubber and plastic materials
- **Class C Extinguishers** are for fighting electrical fires involving energized electrical equipment that require using nonconductive extinguishing material
- **Class D Extinguishers** are for fighting chemical fires, these usually found in areas where flammable chemicals are found
- **Class K Extinguishers** are for fighting fires of cooking oils, trans-fats, or fats in cooking appliances and are typically found in restaurant and cafeteria kitchens

When using a fire extinguisher hold the extinguisher and stand about six feet from the fire. Point the nozzle toward the base of the fire and release the extinguishing agent. The technique to remember for using an extinguisher is known as the P.A.S.S. Technique: (Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep).

Employee Attendance:(Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

These guidelines do not supersede local, state or federal regulations, and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.

Quiz Answers: 1) A, 2) D, 3) C, 4) D, 5) A