



***CLEVELAND INTEGRITY SERVICES, INC.***

**Fire Extinguishers – Types and Uses**

**Goals:**      **This safety session should teach employees to:**

- Know how to select the right fire extinguisher for a fire.
- Know how and when to use a fire extinguisher.

**Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.157**

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**1. OSHA Requires Most Employers to Have and Maintain Fire Extinguishers**

- Approved, fully charged, operable extinguishers must be placed and identified, so employees can reach them easily.
- Extinguishers must be visually inspected monthly and tested at least yearly to be sure they're working properly.
- Our fire extinguishers are located... [List locations].

**2. Use Fire Extinguishers Only on Small, Contained Fires**

- If in doubt, sound alarm, evacuate properly, and let trained firefighters handle it.

**3. Use Class A Extinguishers on Fires of Ordinary Combustibles**

They wet down and cool fires involving paper, cloth, trash, wood, etc.

- Class A extinguisher numbers (1-A, 2-A, etc.) indicate the size fire each can handle.
  - The higher the number, the larger the fire area it can handle.
- OSHA requires Class A's to be no more than 75 feet from the area of likely use.

**4. Use Class B Extinguishers on Fires Involving Gases or Flammable Liquids**

They cut off oxygen to, or reduce flame in, fires involving combustibles such as grease, oil, paint, solvents.

- Class B extinguisher numbers (5-B, 10-B) tell how many square feet each can handle.
- OSHA requires Class B's to be no more than 50 feet from the area of likely use.

**5. Use Class C Extinguishers on Fires on or Near Electrical Equipment**

They use carbon dioxide or a dry chemical to put out these fires.

- Never use water on an electrical fire. Water conducts electricity and could cause a dangerous shock to the person holding the extinguisher.
- Class C's don't have numbers

**6. Use ABC or BC Extinguishers on Combination Fires**

The letters identify the type of fire they can handle.



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**7. Use Class D Extinguishers on Combustible Metal Fires**

They're used on sodium, magnesium, zinc, potassium, powdered aluminum, titanium, and other combustible metal fires.

- They must be within 75 feet of operations that generate combustible metal powders, flakes, or shavings.
- Class D's are considered "special hazard" protection and have no numbers.

**8. Use Extinguishers Properly**

If you feel a fire is small enough to handle with an extinguisher:

- **Pull the pin.**
- **Stand about 8 feet from the fire.**
- **Aim carefully at the base of the fire;** you probably won't have a second chance.
  - Be especially careful not to spread combustible fires (e.g., by blowing burning papers out of a wastebasket).
- **Squeeze the trigger.**

**Discussion Points:**

- Explain locations and types of fire extinguishers in your work area.
- Ask for volunteers to demonstrate and describe how to use a fire extinguisher.

**Conclusion: Know How to Choose and When to Use a Fire Extinguisher**

The right extinguisher, properly used, can handle small fires. In all other cases, turn in an alarm and leave the job to trained firefighters.