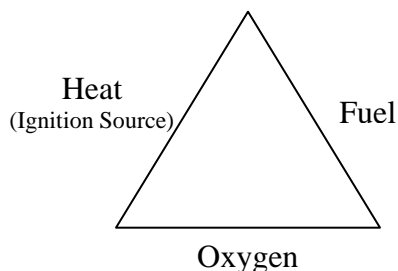


Fire Extinguisher Training

Why Proper Fire Extinguisher Training is Important

- According to the OSHA, workplace fires and explosions kill 200 and injure of 5,000 workers in the United States each year.

Fire Fundamentals^[1]



For ignition to occur a fire needs three things: heat, fuel and oxygen. A properly used extinguisher will smother the burning surface, lower the temperature and/or remove the oxygen, thus extinguishing the fire.

Fire Extinguisher Types^[1]

Extinguishers are distinguished by class. Each class of extinguisher is intended to be used on a specific type of fire. An extinguisher should never be used on a fire that is different than that for which the extinguisher is intended. Newer extinguishers may be intended for use on more than one type of fire, i.e., an ABC extinguisher is intended for use on Class A, B and C fires. The classes are as follows:

- Class A: Ordinary combustible materials, i.e., paper, wood, cloth, rubber and plastic
- Class B: Flammable Liquids, i.e., gasoline, oil and grease
- Class C: Electrical equipment
- Class D: Combustible metals, i.e., magnesium, titanium or sodium
- Class K: Kitchen fires, i.e., burning vegetable oils, animal oils or fats

Extinguisher Use – the PASS Method^[1]

Pull the pin

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire

Squeeze the handle

Sweep

When using an extinguisher always Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep. The pin is located at the top of the extinguisher near the trigger. Always aim low, at the base of the fire. Squeezing the handle dispenses the suppression agent. Sweep across the width of the fire until it is extinguished. If the fire re-ignites and is still small enough to extinguish repeat the PASS procedure. Always stand at least 8-10 feet away from the fire.

Things to Remember^[2]

- Always call 911 or sound the fire alarm by activating a fire alarm pull station, located in most campus buildings, before attempting to extinguish a fire.
- If you are not comfortable using an extinguisher, leave the building immediately and allow the Fire Department to extinguish the fire. Property damage is much less important than your personal safety.
- Only attempt to extinguish very small fires with an extinguisher.
- Even small fires can often grow very quickly. Always be certain that you have an exit available and remember: **WHEN IN DOUBT, GET OUT!**
- Keep an 8-10 ft. distance between yourself and the fire you are trying to extinguish.
- Always be certain that the extinguisher you have at your disposal is intended for the type of fire you encounter. (See extinguisher types, in the previous column)
- Stop, Drop and Roll if your clothing catches fire.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Fire- and Life-Safety at (303) 492 – 4042, or by e-mail at Mansour.Alipour-fard@colorado.edu

References

- [1]www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable_about.html
[2]www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/modules/exting/Rules.htm