

USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

When to put out a fire

When to exit

How to use a fire extinguisher



Developed by Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)
October, 2009

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU DISCOVER A
FIRE ?



Step One

Pull the nearest fire alarm

OR

Tell a co-worker to pull it!

Call 911



Follow R.A.C.E.

Remove or rescue anyone from the immediate danger area

Activate the building fire alarm and report the fire

Confine the fire by closing all doors

Evacuate the building

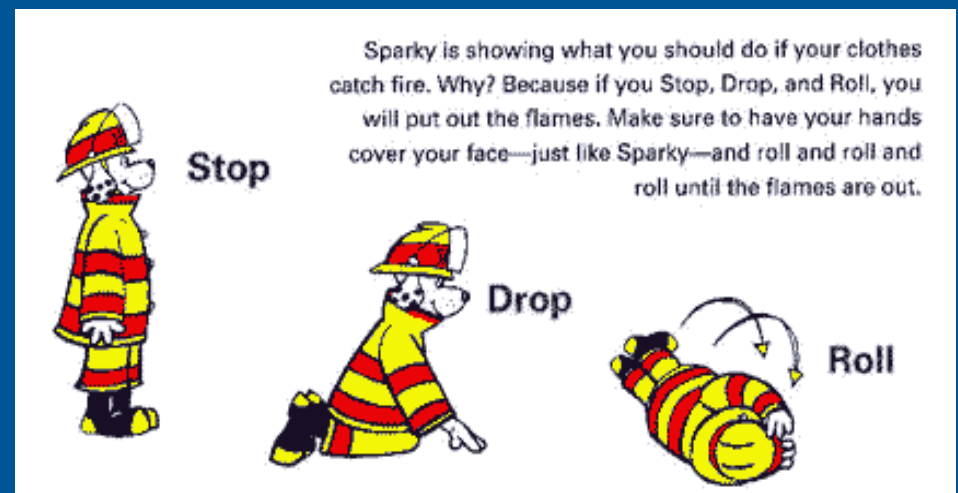
Be prepared to escape by:

knowing at least two ways out of every room, space, and work area,

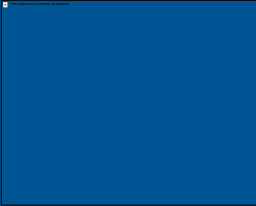
noting the emergency exits in your work location,

knowing the emergency meeting locations outside and away from the building.

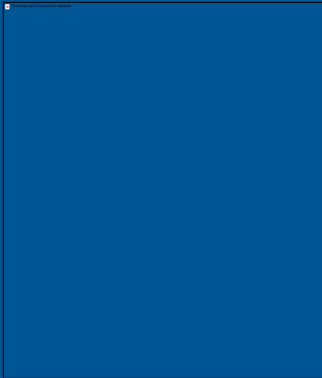
If your clothes catch fire, remember to stop, drop and roll



Step Two - decide:

Should you  the Building?

OR

Should you use a  fire extinguisher?

IF YOU HEAR A FIRE ALARM:

- Immediately evacuate the building
- Go to a prearranged meeting location
- Do **not** try to put out the fire with an extinguisher, *unless you have been trained and expected to use an extinguisher.*
- Wait for the “**ALL CLEAR**” signal before you re-enter the building.





The only exception to leaving the building is when you have been...

- specifically told you can do something other than evacuate the building
- specifically trained and expected to use a fire extinguisher

You can use a fire extinguisher only if you:



Have been trained initially on when and how to use a fire extinguisher

and

received refresher annual training.

Before using a fire extinguisher, be sure that:

- ✓ The fire is small and not spreading rapidly!
A fire can double in size within two or three minutes.
- ✓ You have the proper fire extinguisher to put out what is burning (paper, oil, electrical).
- ✓ The fire won't block your exit if you can't extinguish it or control it.
A good way to ensure this is to keep the exit at your back.
- ✓ You know your fire extinguisher works.
The fire extinguisher has no dents, leaks, broken hoses, missing pieces or other damage. On fire extinguishers equipped with a gauge, the needle should be in the green zone - not too low or too high.



Choosing the proper extinguisher

For ordinary fires involving solids such as wood, paper, and cloth; you can use a water or dry chemical extinguisher with a label that says **Class A** or **Combination A, B & C**.



Class A Fire Extinguisher



Combination Fire Extinguisher

Choosing the proper extinguisher

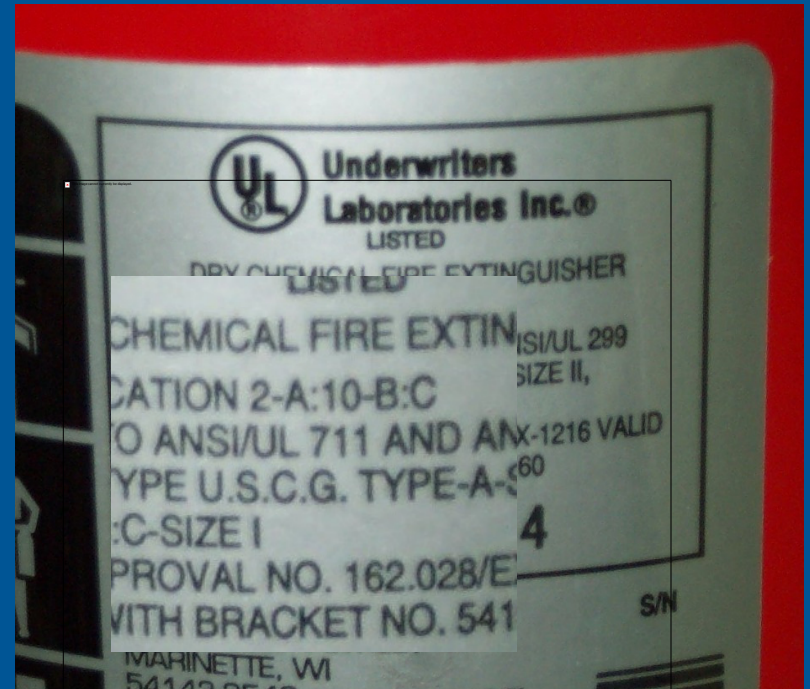
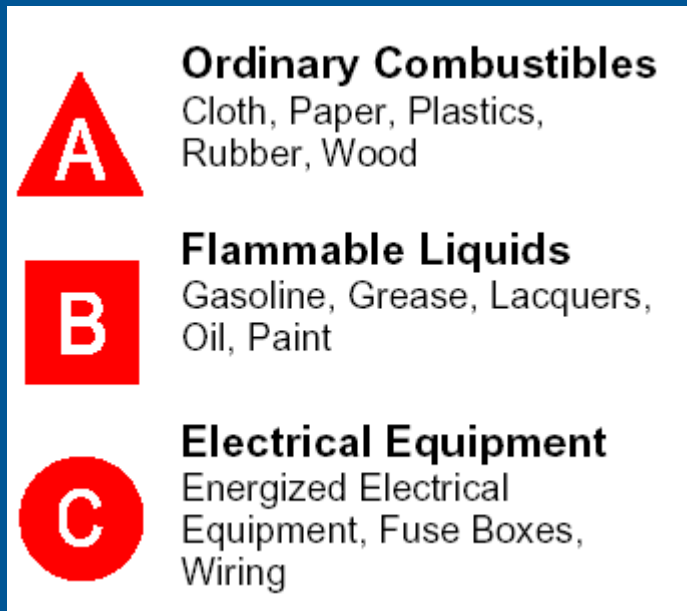
For fires involving flammable liquids, or electrical equipment, choose a dry chemical extinguisher with a label that says combination B & C or A, B & C or a carbon dioxide extinguisher.

Electrical fires will mostly be extinguished if the power is turned off first.



Carbon dioxide extinguisher

Read the labels on all the various types of fire extinguishers near your work area



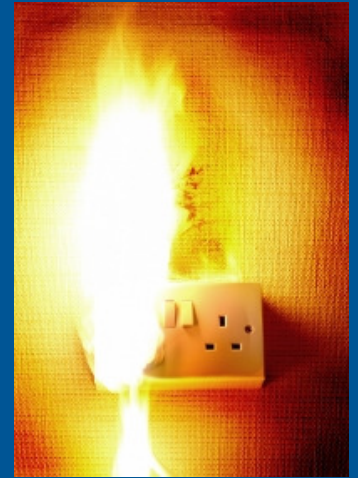
Never use water on a fire unless you know what is burning.

Water conducts electricity which could spread problems and cause more shorting in the equipment.

Water will also carry burning oil, gas and other petroleum products in to new areas to ignite.

A fire extinguisher should only be used to fight a fire when:

- * The fire department has first been notified.
- * There is a clear exit behind the person using the fire extinguisher.
- * The fire is small and contained (like in a wastepaper basket).



And most important of all...

The fire is not spreading rapidly!

How to use a fire extinguisher safely:

- Always stand with an exit at your back.
- Stand several feet back and away from the fire, moving closer once the fire starts to diminish.
- Use a slow sweeping motion and aim the fire extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.
- If possible, use a "buddy system" to have someone back you up or to call for help if something goes wrong.
- After putting out the fire be sure to watch the area for awhile to ensure the fire does not re-ignite.

Use the “P.A.S.S.” system



Pull the pin



Aim at the base of the fire from about 8 feet away



Squeeze the handle



Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it is out

The fire is out – now what?

If the fire goes out:
 stay near, it might flare
 up!
 if so, put it out again or
 Evacuate!

If the fire doesn't go out --
 Evacuate!

Most extinguishers only last
 about 10 to 18 seconds.



Additional Information

DOSH Rules –portable fire extinguishers



Bremerton Fire Department - Fire Extinguisher Training Video

Seattle Fire Department – Fire Extinguisher Fact Sheet