



Fire Extinguishers

What this Toolbox Talk Covers:

- ✓ The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of using and storing fire extinguishers on a job site.

Discussion Leader Duties:

- ✓ Demonstrate examples of safety guidelines and general rules for fire extinguishers on construction sites.

Discussion Notes:

- ✓ Discuss the outcomes of the “Dos” and “Don’ts.”

Do

- Inspect all fire extinguishers regularly.
- Notify all workers when a fire extinguisher is deployed or removed from its storage hanger.
- Communicate to new employees and day workers where fire extinguishers are located before they begin working.
- Evacuate immediately if a fire becomes too big or out of control to be extinguished.
- Train workers in fire prevention methods.
- Always leave yourself a way out when attempting to extinguish a fire. Keep your back to an exit.

Don’t

- Block fire extinguishers with equipment or debris; keep access clear at all times.
- Attempt to extinguish fires that are too big or immediately dangerous. Examples of immediately dangerous fires include those that are in a flammable liquids storage area, in an explosives vault or near a liquid propane tank.
- Use more than two extinguishers on a fire. If a fire requires more than two extinguishers, it means the fire is too big -- evacuate immediately.
- Use a fire extinguisher without knowing its class and what type of burning material it is designed to extinguish.
- Neglect to check the fire extinguishers on your work site regularly. Damaged or corroded extinguishers can rupture, causing a serious safety hazard.

Discussion questions:

1. What should you do when a fire extinguisher is deployed or removed from its storage hanger?
2. What should you do if a fire becomes too big or out of control to be extinguished?
3. Why should you not use more than two fire extinguishers on a fire?
4. What should you know about a fire extinguisher before using it?

Meeting notes:

Employee comments/concerns: _____

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility: _____

Training record:	Date: _____	Jobsite/Facility: _____	
	Trainer: _____	Title: _____	
Employee name (print)	/ (signature)	Employee name (print)	/ (signature)
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/

(Continue recording signatures on a separate sheet of paper)

Employee Quiz is provided on last page. Answers are: 1. (b), 2. (a), 3. (b), 4. (d), 5. (a)

Toolbox Talks safety information provided by Texas Mutual Insurance Company.



Fire Extinguishers

Hazards include:

Serious injury or even death.

Smart Safety Rules

- Know the different types of materials that can burn and what type of fire extinguisher should be used:

CLASS	MATERIAL
Class A	Cardboard, paper, wood or other materials that leave an ash after burning
Class B	Flammable or combustible liquids like gasoline or oil
Class C	Appliances, tools or other plugged in equipment
Class D	Combustible metals like magnesium or sodium

- Use the PASS method when using a fire extinguisher:
 - **P** Pull the pin
 - **A** Aim the hose at the base of the fire
 - **S** Squeeze the trigger
 - **S** Sweep back and forth with the extinguisher



TEXAS CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION WORKERS' COMP SAFETY GROUP

Toolbox Talks

A WEEKLY HANDY GUIDE FOR YOUR SAFETY MEETINGS

Employee Quiz

Topic: Fire Extinguishers

Employee Name: _____

Circle the correct answer below.

1. What type of fire extinguisher should you use if there is a gasoline fire on your work site?
 - a. Class A
 - b. Class B
 - c. Class C
 - d. Class D
2. You should put your back to your exit or door when fighting a fire.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Where should you aim the hose when using a fire extinguisher?
 - a. At the top of the fire
 - b. At the base of the fire
 - c. Toward the exit
 - d. All of the above
4. Which of the following is NOT one of the steps of PASS?
 - a. Pull the pin
 - b. Aim the hose at the base of the fire
 - c. Squeeze the trigger
 - d. Sweep up and down with the extinguisher
5. Damaged or corroded fire extinguishers can _____, causing serious injury or death.
 - a. Rupture
 - b. Make a fire worse
 - c. Stall
 - d. All of the above

Training record: Date: _____ Jobsite/Facility: _____
Trainer: _____ Title: _____