

# SAFETY TOPICS

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CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Think about this: each year in the U.S.A. there are some 2-1/2 million reported fires, most of which started small enough to have been quickly extinguished if (1) the proper fire extinguisher was immediately available and if (2) someone was knowledgeable enough to use it properly. To be effective, your fire extinguisher must be the right size, type and available in all required locations. (See Federal OSHA Standard 1926.150 or your State OSHA standard, whichever governs in your area, for specific requirements.) The size of your extinguisher is usually determined by regulations, or by the potential fire size it must extinguish.

Extinguishers are labeled to identify the class of fire for which they are intended and the most common are classes A, B and C.

**Class A** fires are ordinary combustibles -- paper, wood, etc.

**Class B** fires cover flammable liquids -- grease, oil, gasoline, etc.

**Class C** fires are live electrical -- switches, wiring, appliances, tools, etc.

Some fire extinguishers have a multi-purpose rating. For example, if your extinguisher is rated ABC, it can be used to fight all three of the above classes of fire.

Since the contents of most fire extinguishers are very limited and are discharged within seconds, you can't afford to waste or misuse any of it. Most fire extinguisher manufacturers recommend aiming the extinguisher at the base of the fire and discharging the contents in a quick side to side motion, however, we highly recommend that you take the time today to read the instructions printed on the fire extinguishers which you may be required to operate.

There is no such thing as a half fire - have partially used extinguishers re-charged today.

**BY THE TIME YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF YOUR HOME SMOKE DETECTORS, YOU WILL PROBABLY HAVE LESS THAN TWO MINUTES TO ESCAPE. DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN?**

**Are you familiar with our special fire hazards?**

**Do you know the locations of our fire extinguishers?**