

ST. MORITZ SAFE

Monthly Safety Blast

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

You know fire extinguishers are important and understand their basic function. But are you aware if your organization has extinguishers, and if so, which types are installed, where they are located, and how to correctly use and maintain them?

Portable fire extinguishers can be extremely effective in combating small fires within the workplace. However, not all extinguishers are the same. There are different classes for different types of fires. Proper selection and placement of extinguishers is extremely important. It's also essential that once installed, the units are carefully, regularly inspected and maintained, and all employees are trained on proper use.

TYPES OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Class A (most common)

- Identified by a green triangle containing the letter A.
- Used for wood, paper, cloth, cardboard and most ordinary combustibles.
- Cool and quench with water after usage.

Class B

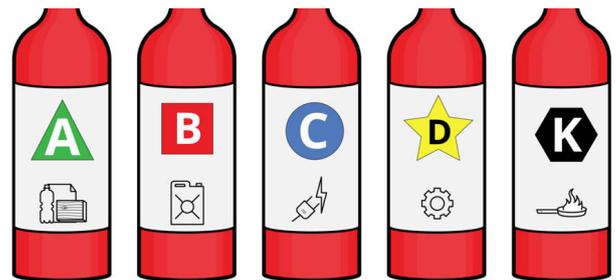
- Identified by a red square containing the letter B.
- Used for flammable liquids, such as oil, solvents tars, paints, greases and gases.
- Smother or exclude air after usage.
- Extinguisher types: dry chemicals, foam or carbon dioxide.

Class C

- Identified by a blue circle containing the letter C.
- Used for energized electrical equipment, such as electrical boxes, panels, transformers, etc.
- Use non-conductive extinguishing material, dry chemical or carbon dioxide to smother the fire.

Class D

- Identified by a yellow five-pointed star containing the letter D.
- Used for combustible metals such as aluminum, titanium, magnesium.
- Extinguisher type- use dry powder agent, specific to the combustible metal involved.



• cloth
• wood
• rubber
• paper
• plastics

• gasoline
• grease
• oil

electrical
fires

combustible
metals

kitchen
fires

Class K

- Identified by the letter K.
- Used for fats, grease and oils in commercial kitchens.
- Use dry or wet special agents - such as Potassium bicarbonate or a fine chemical mist.

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

SAFETY & USAGE

PLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE

- Select and position portable fire extinguishers based on the potential type and size of the fire that can occur. Make sure size and spacing is in accordance with industry standards.
- Mount fire extinguisher units on brackets or in wall cabinets with the carrying handle placed 3.5 to 5 feet above the floor. Position larger units at lower heights within the carrying handle about 3 feet from the floor.
- For proper maintenance, ensure that:
 - Extinguishers are in their assigned location, clearly visible and not blocked or hidden by objects that would interfere with access.
 - Nameplates with operating instructions are legible and facing outward.
 - Pressure gauges indicate that the equipment is fully charged (in the green zone).
 - Pins and tamper seals are intact.
 - Equipment is in good condition - no physical damage, corrosion or leaks.
 - If powder in dry powder extinguishers becomes packed, it can be loosened by gently rocking the extinguishers from bottom to top.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Employees should know and follow all fire safety rules.
- Follow provided guidelines for using portable fire extinguishers.
- Identify the location of all fire extinguishes within your facility and familiarize yourself with extinguisher parts and operations.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

As a general rule, the 4-step PASS process can be used for operation:

1. Pull the pin.
2. Aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
3. Squeeze the handle slowly and evenly to discharge the material.
4. Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

GOLDEN RULE

Safety is paramount. Contact the proper authorities when necessary. If there is ever an instance where life is threatened, leave the facility immediately.



PULL THE PIN



AIM THE NOZZLE AT THE FIRE



PRESS THE LEVER DOWN



SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE