



A Division of SPG
Insurance Solutions, LLC

THE DISPATCH

MANAGING RISK IN THE MOVING & STORAGE INDUSTRY

FIRE SAFETY - FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: KNOW HOW & WHEN TO USE THEM

Fire in a building or on a truck is a very dangerous situation. Whenever you encounter a fire, make sure that you can get away from the fire and to a safe area. However, many fires can be contained and extinguished prior to them getting out of control if fire extinguishers are available and used properly.

First it is important that extinguishers are checked regularly for the proper charge and all employees are familiar with their locations. Extinguishers should be placed in easy to see and reach places and should be distinguished by a sign.

CLASS RATINGS FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Class A is for ordinary combustible material, things like furniture, packing materials, and crates.

Class B are for fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline and oil.

Class C are suitable for electrical fires.

Class D is used for flammable metals like magnesium. Since it is likely that most moving and storage companies could experience a fire from either A, B, or C Class fires, a Multi Class extinguisher is recommended and required in many fire codes.

TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS & THEIR APPLICATIONS

Dry Chemical extinguishers are usually rated for multipurpose use. They contain an extinguishing agent and a compressed gas, they are effective from 7 to 10 feet from the fire.

Halon extinguishers contain a gas that interrupts the chemical reaction when a fire burns. These types of extinguishers are

excellent in buildings around computers because they do not leave any residue to clean up after the fire. Most Halon extinguishers have a limited range of 4 to 6 feet.

Water extinguishers contain water and compressed gas and should only be used on class A fires.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) extinguishers are most effective on class B and C fires. Since the gas disperses quickly they are only effective from 3 to 8 feet.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

Even though extinguishers come in a number of shapes and sizes, they all operate in a similar manner.

The acronym for fire extinguisher use is **P.A.S.S.** – **P**ull, **A**im, **S**queeze, and **S**weep.

Pull, the pin at the top of the extinguisher that keeps the handle from being accidentally pressed.

Aim the nozzle toward the base of the fire.

Squeeze the handle to discharge the extinguisher, from a distance of approximately 8 feet from the fire. Release the handle to stop the discharge.

Sweep the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. After the fire appears to be out, watch it carefully since it may re-ignite!

Always have a fire extinguisher checked after use. Even if the fire extinguisher was only partially used, it needs to be checked and completely recharged after each use. Properly used, a fire extinguisher can contain a small fire, which will substantially reduce damage and loss of life. With every fire there is a risk of personal injury. Do not put yourself in danger. If the fire is out of your control, call the fire department immediately.

If you have any questions or need help with your safety and loss control programs please contact our claims department.
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