

General Fire/Extinguisher Information

Fire:

There are 3 common types of fires

Type A Ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, textiles, etc.

Type B Flammable liquids, grease, gasoline, oils, paints, etc.

Type C Electrical energized equipment such as motors, switches, etc.

Two other types not common:

Type D Flammable metals

Type E Radioactive

***Fire Fighting the three common types of fires:**

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire, or at least containing it until the fire department arrives.

To use it properly:

The operator must know how to use the extinguisher. There is no time to read directions during an emergency. The extinguisher must be close, (usually near an exit door) and in working order, fully charged. The operator must have a clear unobstructed exit escape path.

The right type of fire extinguisher:

If it takes Air, Heat, and Fuel to have a fire, we can put the fire out by taking one of these away. If you put a blanket of dry chemicals over the fire you take away the air. If you put water on the fire, you cool it and take away the heat. It is hard to take away the fuel, but if possible turn off the gas burner or shut off electric to it.

Portable Fire Extinguishers:

Class A - pressurized water - FM Building

Class BC - dry chemical - kitchens (SH & C&F)

Class BC - carbon dioxide - (none at Ozark Guidance)

Class BC - Halon - (Williams Building Computer Room)

Class ABC - Multi-purpose Dry Chemical (All Buildings)

***Fire Extinguisher usage:**

If you do fight the fire, remember the word P A S S

P Pull the pin, some extinguishers require releasing a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, or taking another first step. All Ozark Guidance extinguishers just require pulling the safety pin.

A Aim low, point the extinguisher nozzle (or its hose) at the base of the fire.

S Squeeze the handle trigger, this will release the extinguisher agent.

S Sweep the extinguisher or hose from side to side. Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until it appears to be out. Watch the fire area. If fire breaks out again, repeat the process.

Fighting wood and paper fires:

Class A (water) is ok to use on this type of fire, it soaks into and cools the combustible. Use a direct stream at the base of flames. Use a side-to-side motion to wet all burning surfaces.

Class ABC (dry chemicals) is ok to use on this type of fire, it covers and takes the air away. Use a direct discharge (staying back 8-10 feet) at the base of the flames and gradually forward and upward using a quick side-to-side motion as you progress.

Fighting flammable liquid fires:

Class BC (dry chemicals) is ok to use on this type of fire, it also covers and takes the air away. Direct discharge as close to the fire as possible (about 8 - 10 ft.) First at edge of flames and gradually forward and upward using a quick side-to-side motion as you progress. BC chemicals ball up on the surface to do a blanket. ABC chemicals would lay over the surface for a while but would sink under the surface possibly letting the fire start again. Water would spread the fire by washing the liquid around and not giving a blanket effect to it. Cold water on hot liquid makes the fire wild and mad (so to speak.)

Fighting energized electric fires:

Class ABC (dry chemicals) is ok to use on this type of fire, it covers the surface and takes the air away. Direct discharge as close to the fire as possible. First at edge of flames and gradually forward and upwards using a slow side-to-side motion as you progress.

Be sure you are fighting a fire with the proper extinguisher.

If your clothes catch fire, remember don't run - just - stop, drop and roll on the floor or ground. This will take air away and the fire will go out.

It is not recommended to use a chemical fire extinguisher on a person.

Before fighting a fire, any fire, make sure the Fire Department is called.

A 5 lb. ABC Dry Chemical extinguisher is recommended for home use.