



SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

Fire Extinguisher Safety

Federal and state regulations require fire extinguishers be placed throughout a workplace. Extinguisher placement depends on the type of hazards at your business. Your local fire marshal, property insurance company, or loss prevention professional can assist you with type and placement decisions.

Extinguishers are required to have monthly visual inspections by someone from your company and a yearly inspection by a qualified inspector.

Fire extinguishers are labeled with a class system to match the type of hazard at your facility.

CLASS A Extinguishers will put out fires in ordinary combustibles, such as wood and paper. The numerical rating for this class of fire extinguisher refers to the amount of water the fire extinguisher holds and the amount of fire it will extinguish.

CLASS B Extinguishers should be used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, etc. The numerical rating for this class of fire extinguisher states the approximate number of square feet of a flammable liquid fire that a non-expert person can expect to extinguish.

CLASS C Extinguishers are suitable for use on electrically energized fires. This class of fire extinguishers does not have a numerical rating. The presence of the letter "C" indicates that the extinguishing agent is non-conductive.

CLASS D Extinguishers are designed for use on combustible metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. Examples would be magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, potassium, lithium and zinc. There is no picture designator for Class D extinguishers. These extinguishers generally have no rating nor are they given a multi-purpose rating for use on other types of fires.

Employees who are required to use fire extinguishers, such as fire watch personnel, should receive training on extinguisher use. Companies that have policies requiring complete evacuation are not required to train employees on extinguisher use.



Fire Extinguisher Tips

- **Easy to See and Easy to Get:**
Keep area around the fire extinguisher clear.
- **Fire Extinguishers More than 40lbs:**
Hang no more than 3.5-feet from the floor.
- **Fire Extinguishers 40lbs or Less:**
Hang no more than 5-feet from the floor.

Remember PASS when using an extinguisher:

- P – Pull the pin.
- A – Aim at the base of the fire.
- S – Squeeze the handle.
- S – Sweep back and forth.



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information. www.beaconmutual.com

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