

KSU Facilities Safety Bulletin

Fire extinguisher hands on training is coming up. The two following days will be a come and go training as your schedule allows. The training will include hands on use of a fire extinguisher. Once you've completed the training you will be free to go!

July 15, 2015—8:30 am to 12:00 pm & 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm, Dykstra 132

July 22, 2015—9:00 am to 12:00 pm & 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm, Union 206

To prepare for the hands on training read the following articles.

When it comes time to use a fire extinguisher remember the acronyms R.A.C.E. and P.A.S.S.

It is important that you and your staff are prepared to respond to fires and other emergencies.

Review this basic, but critical, fire response information with your team on a regular basis.

Follow the "R.A.C.E." acronym if there is a fire or suspected fire:



Rescue – Alarm – Contain – Extinguish or Evacuate

Rescue

Immediately stop what you are doing and remove anyone in immediate danger from the fire to a safe area.

Get out as safely and quickly as possible. The less time you and others are exposed to poisonous gases, heat, or flames, the safer everyone will be.

Alarm

Activate the nearest fire alarm pull stations (if applicable).

Call 911 and/or the front desk (if applicable) to report the location and current extent of the fire. The front desk is notified so that the entire disaster response team can be quickly notified.

Contain

Close all doors and windows that you can safely reach to contain the fire.

During evacuation close the doors behind you.

Extinguish

Only attempt to extinguish the fire if it is safe for you to do so.

Retrieve the nearest fire extinguisher and follow the "P.A.S.S." procedure:

PASS

P for Pull: Pull the Pin.

A for Aim: Aim the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire from the recommended safe distance.

S for Squeeze: Squeeze the operating lever to discharge the fire extinguisher agent.

S for Sweep: Sweep the nozzle or hose from side to side until the fire is out. Watch the area in case of re-ignition.

If **Extinguishing** the fire is not possible then **Evacuate** the area.

Fire Extinguisher Inspections

Like any mechanical device, fire extinguishers must be maintained on a regular basis to insure their proper operation. You, the owner or occupant of the property where fire extinguishers are located, are responsible for arranging your fire extinguishers' maintenance.



Fire extinguishers must be inspected or given a "quick check" every 30 days. For most extinguishers, this is a job that you can easily do by locating the extinguishers in your workplace and answering yes to the following three questions;

- A. Is the extinguisher in the correct location?
- B. Is it visible and accessible?
- C. Does the gauge or pressure indicator show the correct pressure?

Types of Fires

Not all fires are the same. Different fuels create different fires and require different types of fire extinguisher agents.

There are five classes:

Class A fires are fires in ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, cloth, trash, and plastics..

Class B fires are fires in flammable liquids such as gasoline, petroleum oil and paint. Class B Fires also include flammable gases such as propane and butane. Class B fires do not include fires involving cooking oils and grease.

Class C fires are fires involving energized electrical equipment such as motors, transformers, and appliances. Remove the power and the Class C fire becomes one of the other classes of fire.

Class D fires are fires in combustible metals such as potassium, sodium, aluminum and magnesium.

Class K fires are fires in cooking oils and greases such as animal fats and vegetable fats.

Some type of fire extinguishing agents can be used on more than one class of fire. Others have warnings where it would be dangerous for the operator to use a particular fire extinguisher agent.

Your Fire Extinguisher

You will most likely be using the multipurpose Dry Chemical fire extinguisher.

Dry Chemical fire extinguishers extinguish the fire primarily by interrupting the chemical reaction of the fire triangle.

Today's most widely used type of fire extinguisher is the multipurpose dry chemical that is effective on Class A, B and C fires. This agent also works by creating a barrier between the oxygen element and the fuel element on Class A fires.



Ordinary dry chemical is for Class B & C fires only. It is important to use the correct extinguisher for the type of fuel! Using the incorrect agent can allow the fire to reignite after apparently being extinguished successfully.