FS/HAAF GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Outsmart the Darkness: Your Weekly Safety Spotlight"

Fire Extinguishers

Fires are broken down into five different classes, each based on the fuel source feeding the fire. These classifications help determine the appropriate fire extinguisher and safety measures to use, as each different type requires different extinguishing methods. It is important to chose the correct fire extinguisher for the hazard presented and know the differences in fuel types to better protect your employees and workplace.

Use the Right Tool for the Job

Classes of Fire

- Class **A**—Involve common, ordinary combustible materials such as wood, paper or cloth. They typically leave **A**sh.
- Class **B**—Involve flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and alcohol as well as flammable gases like propane and methane. Think **B**oom!
- Class **C**—Involve energized electrical equipment. Electricity has **C**urrent and runs inside of **C**ords
- Class **D**— Involve combustible metals such as magnesium, sodium, titanium, and aluminum shavings. Remember when you ring a metal bell, it goes **D**ing **D**ong!
- Class **K**—Involve cooking oils, animal fats and grease commonly found in the **K**itchen

Why classification Matters

- Understanding the class of fire helps in implementing appropriate safety procedures and choosing the right tools for fire prevention and suppression.
- Using the wrong fire extinguisher on a specific type of fire can be ineffective or even dangerous. For example, water should never be used on electrical (Class C) or metal (Class D) fires as it could cause electric shock or a dangerous explosion.
- In typical workplaces, a combination ABC fire extinguisher is appropriate to suppress a wide range of fire classifications commonly encountered in the workplace.

Fire Extinguisher Operation

PASS Method

- **P**: Pull Pin (Traditional Fire Extinguisher) or Push Cartridge lever (RUSOH)
- **A**: Aim at the base of the fire
- **S**: Squeeze nozzle or handle
- **S**: Sweep back and forth to extinguish flame

RUSOH Eliminator Fire Extinguisher

- Reliable, Self-Service, Multi-purpose Reloadable Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher
- Pressurized only when needed
- Rechargeable and eliminates 6 year Teardown service and 12 year Hydrostatic testing requirement
- Simple design and easy to use
- Available in ABC Dry Chemical and Purple K to suppress a wide array of fire classifications
- After use, simply re-load suppression agent, replace CO_2 canister and re-seal
- Still requires 30 day inspection and fluffing of agent but eliminates requirement for 3rd Party servicing