



## BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

### **October is Fire Prevention Month October 4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> is Fire Prevention Week**

**About Fire Prevention Week:** Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Fire Prevention Month is a good time for employers to review (or develop if you don't have one) your company's fire prevention plan, train or retrain employees regarding evacuation routes and use of portable fire extinguishers, test your fire alarm systems, hold a fire drill, and conduct annual inspections of portable fire extinguishers and any fixed extinguishing systems in your facilities. Don't limit your activities to your headquarters building. Be sure to include your job sites!

OSHA's regulations for fire protection and prevention can be found in 29 CFR 1926 Subpart F – Fire Protection and Prevention and Subpart C – General Safety and Health Provisions, 1926.24 Fire protection and prevention, 1926.34 Means of egress, and 1926.35 Employee emergency action plans.

**Fire Prevention Plans:** help prevent a fire from occurring in the workplace. It describes the fuel sources on site that could initiate a fire or contribute to the spread of a fire, as well as the extinguishing systems and alarms in place to control the ignition and/or spread of a fire.

On OSHA's website you can find an eTool to help you develop a fire prevention plan for your facilities and construction projects. (<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/fire.html>)

**Portable Fire Extinguishers:** can be an effective early response to a developing fire, if they are installed and used properly.

OSHA's website includes an eTool that can be used to ensure that your portable fire extinguishers are readily accessible, fully charged and working properly in the event of a fire. ([https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable\\_placement.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/portable_placement.html))

See the NFPA's website (<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week>) to learn more about this year's fire prevention week theme and fire safety at home.



# Monthly Toolbox Talk

## In Case of Fire

If you discover a fire:

- Sound the alarm
- Call 911.
- Cautiously size up the situation
- If the fire is small enough, put it out
- Warn other people in the area
- Stand by to direct fire fighters when they arrive
- Help fight the fire only when asked to do so. .

Classification of types of fires and types of portable fire extinguishers:

- Class A fires involve ordinary materials such as paper, cloth wood, cardboard, foam, and other rubbish and debris.
  - Use a Class A or Class ABC fire extinguisher on this type of fire.
- Class B fires involve flammable and combustible liquids such as fuels, paints, solvents, and grease.
  - Use a Class B or Class ABC fire extinguisher!
  - Do not use a Class A extinguisher on this type of fire. Possibility of spreading the flames.
- Class C fires are electrical fires.
  - Use a Class C or Class ABC fire extinguisher on these types of fires.
  - Do not use a Class A fire extinguisher on this type of fire. You must disconnect the power source to eliminate these types of fires.
- Class D fires involve flammable metals such as magnesium, potassium, and other flammable metals. Must utilize special extinguishing agents to extinguish these types of fires.
  - Class A, Class B, or Class C fire extinguishers are not designed to extinguish these types of fires.
  - Class ABC fire extinguishers are designed to be used on all classes of fires except Class D fires.
  - Class BC fire extinguishers are designed to be used on flammable liquid and electrical fires only.

Follow these PASS operating procedures when attempting to extinguish a fire utilizing a fire extinguisher. Do not attempt to extinguish a fire if you are not trained and/or authorized to do so.

- PULL the retaining pin on the handle of the fire extinguisher. Pulling the pin unlocks the operating lever or button so you can discharge the extinguisher. Stand back 6-8 feet from the fire.
- AIM low, pointing the nozzle or hose of the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- SQUEEZE the lever or press the button of the extinguisher. This action will discharge the contents of the extinguisher. When you release the lever, the discharge stops.
- SWEEP the extinguishing agent at the base of the fire while moving carefully toward the fire until the flames appear to be out. .

Remember these firefighting tips:

- Most fire extinguishers are emptied in less than a minute.
- Do not attempt to fight a large fire.
- Always leave yourself a way out--keep your back to an exit.

**Before there's a fire:**

- Know where fire extinguishers are located and how to use them.
- Report defective or suspect extinguishers to your supervisor, so that they can be replaced or repaired.
- Know how to sound the fire alarm.
- Know where emergency exits are located

**Employee Recommendations:**

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**HOW THIS TOPIC APPLIES TO THIS JOB:**

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**ATTENDEES: Print Name / Signature** (use back if necessary)

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**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE:**

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**JOBSITE / PROJECT:**

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