

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ Location _____ Job No. _____
Meeting Leader _____ Title _____
Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____
Subject of Meeting FIGHTING THE FIRE

The last step in operating a portable fire extinguisher is to apply the extinguishing agent to the fire. Many fire extinguishers deliver the entire quantity of extinguishing material in eight to ten seconds.

It is important that the agent be applied correctly since there is little time for experimentation. In some types of extinguishers, the discharge can be started and stopped by a valve.

As you FIGHT THE FIRE always:

- Maintain the proper distance from the fire. This is usually a distance of 6 – 8 feet for dry chemical extinguishers
- Position yourself so that the wind blows the fire away from you
- Holding the extinguisher firmly, begin spraying the extinguisher at the near edge of the fire
- Move the stream rapidly from side to side covering the entire width of the fire
- Slowly move forward as the extinguisher pushes the fire back
- Remember to keep a safe distance away from the front edge of the fire
- After the fire has been extinguished, step back and watch for possible re-ignition. Once you are sure the fire will not re-ignite, follow the clean up procedures recommended in the instruction manual.

Most substances produce hazardous vapors as they burn. The extinguishing agents in some fire extinguishers can also be harmful. Halon and carbon dioxide fire extinguishers are examples of dangerous substances used to extinguish fires. In areas of confined spaces such as small rooms, closets and motor vehicles these chemicals are more concentrated.

Steps can be taken to minimize these hazards. Look for caution labels on the fire extinguishers. Look for warning signs and be aware when you are entering a confined space. Where needed, use extra long reach extinguisher nozzles. Use special ventilation, breathing apparatus and other personal protective equipment provided to fight the fire safely.