

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 _____ **RESPONDING TO FIRES** _____

Many of the products used or found at construction sites carry a considerable risk of fire. Because of this constant danger, it is important that you know the best ways to fight a fire.

KNOW THE TYPE OF FIRE

Fires are classified as A, B, C, and D. Class A fires are fires that involve ordinary combustible material such as wood, paper and cloth. These materials leave ashes. An easy way to remember Class A fires is to associate the A with "Ashes." Class B fires involve flammable liquids (and gases) such as gasoline, paints and flammable solvents. The fire is actually in the fumes over the liquids. These liquids boil. Remember Class B fires by associating the B with "Boiling" liquids. Class C fires involve energized electrical circuits. Electrical circuits involve current. Associate the C with the "Current" found in electrical fires. Although not very common, Class D fires are extremely dangerous and very hard to fight.

RESPONDING TO WORK-SITE FIRES

1. ALERT OTHERS AND EVACUATE THE AREA

The first action to take when a workplace fire is detected is to alert others of the fire. Follow specific company guidelines and procedures for alerting co-workers and performing an orderly evacuation of the work area.

2. CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

It is important the fire company be notified as quickly as possible to minimize the damage. Emergency telephone numbers should be posted by telephones. As with all emergency telephone calls, be prepared to give the specific location, telephone number from which you are calling from, your name, and what has happened. Do not hang up first. The dispatcher may need more information. Wait until they hang up. Follow specific procedures established by the company for notifying fire fighting agencies.

3. DECIDE IF IT IS SAFE TO FIGHT/CONTROL THE FIRE

Attempt to control a fire only if you have been properly trained to do so. Know the hazards associated with fire fighting and the procedures to be followed. Know how to select the proper fire fighting equipment and use all protective equipment.

4. USE THE APPROPRIATE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Using the wrong type of fire extinguisher may actually spread the fire. Fire extinguishers are labeled to tell you on what kind of fires they can be used. An extinguisher labeled with an A is used on Class A fires only. Extinguishers labeled with BC are to be used on Class B and C fires only. ABC extinguishers can be used on Class A, B, and C fires. Be aware of any Combustible Metals (Class D) in your work area. They require special fire fighting procedures and equipment.

5. REMEMBER P.A.S.S.

To use the fire extinguisher correctly, remember the acronym PASS.

- (P) "Pull" the pin to release the handle mechanism.
- (A) "Aim" the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- (S) "Squeeze" the handle.
- (S) "Sweep" the nozzle from side to side as you spray the extinguishing material on the fire.

If you use an entire extinguisher and the fire is not under control, evacuate immediately.