

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 TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

There are many different types of fire extinguishers. Some fire extinguishers are designed for specific applications. Other extinguishers can be used to fight a variety of fires. What makes fire extinguishers different are the chemicals used to put out the fire and the way the chemicals are expelled from the container.

The chemicals used to put out the fires are referred to as the extinguishing media. The expelling method is how the chemicals get from the fire extinguisher to the fire. These two factors determine what fire extinguisher should be used on a particular fire.

Just as fires are classified as Class A, B, C, and D, fire extinguishers are classified the same way. SYMBOLS on the extinguisher help you determine if the unit is to be used to fight a particular fire. These SYMBOLS appear on the poster under DIRECTIONS FOR EXTINGUISHER OPERATION. They are pictures that combine the uses and non-uses of extinguishers on a single label. Some labels use or include the LETTER SHAPED symbol markings that were once part of the recommended marking procedure.

The classification and marking system does not apply to all types of fires. There are some fires that require the use of special fire extinguishers. These special fires are called SPECIFIC HAZARDS. The National Fire Protection Association has identified these specific hazards. They are:

- Flammable liquids and gases under pressure
- Cooking grease fires
- Class B fire that have depth as well as length and width
- Water soluble flammable liquids or liquids that mix evenly throughout the water
- Electronic equipment fires
- Conditions that require the use of large wheeled extinguishers

You should find out if these Specific Hazards are in your work area. The poster identifies the portable fire extinguisher to be used on these SPECIFIC HAZARDS. Using the wrong extinguisher could spread the fire, increase its intensity, and injure yourself or your coworkers.