

Fire Extinguishers

Objective: to familiarize crew members with the appropriate and safe use a fire extinguisher.

Training Materials: different types of fire extinguishers.

Lesson:

- Always call 911 before using a fire extinguisher.
- Keep a clear escape route available if needed.
- If the flames reach the ceiling (workshop) or spread quickly within the vehicle – move away from the area immediately.
- A natural reaction is to aim the extinguisher at the flames, but the correct way to use an extinguisher is to aim it directly at the fuel.

Fires need fuel, oxygen and heat in order to burn.

Fire extinguishers contain a smothering material that either cools the burning fuel, or starves the fire of oxygen. Pulling out the safety pin and holding down the lever at the top of the cylinder releases the pressurized contents of the extinguisher.

Extinguishers are mounted in various accessible locations.

Use the P.A.S.S. method to put out a fire

- Pull the Pin at the top of the extinguisher to allow you to squeeze the lever.
- Aim at the base of the fire, not the flames. To put out the fire you must extinguish the fuel.
- Squeeze the lever slowly to release the pressurized contents. Releasing the handle will stop the discharge.
- Sweep from side to side. Move the hose of the extinguisher from back and forth until the fire is completely out.

The fire extinguisher should always be recharged or replaced immediately after use.

• *Give crew members time to read the labels and become familiar with all different types of extinguishers on site.*

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