

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

FIRE & USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Good housekeeping is essential in the prevention of fires. Fires can start anywhere and at any time. This is why it is important to know which fire extinguisher to use and how to use it.

Always keep fire extinguishers visible and easy to get at. Fire extinguishers have to be properly maintained to do the job. Where temperature is a factor, ensure that care is taken in selecting the right extinguisher. Ensure extinguishers are recharged immediately after they have been discharged.

Types of Fires

Class A: these fires consist of wood, paper, rags, rubbish and other ordinary combustible materials.

Recommended Extinguishers: Water from a hose, pump type water can, or pressurized extinguisher and soda acid extinguishers.

Fighting the Fire: Soak the fire completely – even the smoking embers.

Class B: Flammable liquids, oil and grease.

Recommended Extinguishers: ABC units, dry chemical, foam and carbon dioxide extinguishers.

Fighting the Fire: Start at the base of the fire and use a sweeping motion from left to right, always keeping the fire in front of you.

Class C: Electrical Equipment

Recommended Extinguishers: Carbon dioxide and dry chemical (ABC unites) extinguishers.

Fighting the Fire: Use short bursts on the fire. When the electrical current is shut off on a Class C fire, it can become a Class A fire if the materials around the electrical fire are ignited.

REMEMBER THE P A S S WORD

Pull the safety pin (usually a twist-pull action)

Aim the nozzle, horn or hose at the base of the fire

Squeeze the trigger handle

Sweep from side to side (watch for reflash)