

PLAYING IT

# SAFE

Be safe and healthy on the job at The PT Group with these helpful tips provided by Liberty Insurance Agency.



## Fire Extinguisher Safety

### *Properly Fighting Small Fires*

Fire extinguishers are designed to fight small fires in the early stages, when the fire presents a relatively small hazard to the operator.

An extinguisher can be used in what is known as the incipient stage, when the fire:

- Is small;
- Grows slowly;
- Produces minimal smoke; and
- Radiates minimal heat.

If a fire is too large, if there is too much smoke or if you are too concerned for your safety, evacuate immediately.

#### **PASS**

To operate a fire extinguisher, we use this word PASS. Each letter represents one of the operations:

#### **P=Pull**

- The safety pin is usually held in place by a plastic seal, it will pull off.
- Do not push down on the operating lever while pulling the pin, it won't come out.

#### **A=Aim**

- Aim at the base of the fire, the lowest flame closest to you.
- The base of the fire will recede from you as you use the extinguisher, so you must adjust your aim.

#### **S=Squeeze**

- The operating lever is above the carrying handle. The operating lever opens the valve when you squeeze it down. When you let go, the valve closes and the discharge stops.

#### **S=Sweep**

- Sweep the nozzle by moving your arm at the elbow.
- Direct the discharge to cover the entire width of the base of the fire.

#### **Know Your A, B, Cs**

Using the wrong fire extinguisher can result in more damage than the fire itself. All extinguishers should have nameplates identifying their usage instructions, as outlined below.

#### **Class A Fires**

- These fires include wood, paper, trash and other items that produce glowing embers as they burn.
- Only use a Class A extinguisher for these items and never use one on a gas or electrical fire.

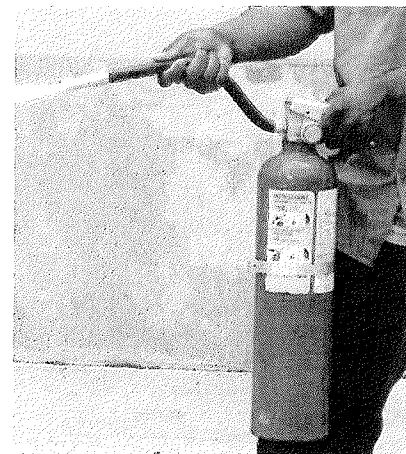
#### **Class B Fires**

- These include flammable liquid and gas fires (gasoline, paint thinners, solvents, grease and acetylene).
- Use a Class B extinguisher only to fight these fires.

#### **Class C Fires**

- These include energized electrical equipment fires.
- Use a Class C extinguisher only to fight these fires.

There are also extinguishers which can be used for all types of fires. They are known as Class ABC extinguishers.



#### **Know When to Go**

Never feel like you have to stay and fight a fire. If at any point while using an extinguisher you become uncomfortable with the situation or feel like your safety is threatened, get out immediately. Your life is worth more than any property.

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