

The James Myers Co., Inc.

Week #16



TOOLBOX TALKS

NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION • CNA COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

Choosing the Right Fire Extinguisher

There are four classes of fire extinguishers.

- Class A fire extinguishers are used on wood, paper, or trash fires. (Basically, any material that leaves ash when it's burned.)
- Class B fire extinguishers are used on flammable liquids and gases.
- Class C fire extinguishers are used for electrical fires.
- Class D fire extinguishers only need to be used on combustible metal fires. Combustible metals include magnesium, sodium or other metals that end with the letters "um".

Be sure to use the correct fire extinguisher.

- An ABC-rated fire extinguisher is the best to have on hand because it will put out almost all types of fire encountered on the roof.
- Make sure the fire extinguishers are properly rated for the jobsite. In general, an extinguisher rated at least 2A must be provided for each 3,000 square feet of the roof.

Know where the fire extinguishers are located on the jobsite.

- You should not have to travel more than 100 feet to get to a fire extinguisher.
- Wherever there is more than 5 gallons of flammable or combustible liquids, or more than 5 pounds of flammable gas, then there must be at least one fire extinguisher with a 10B rating within 50 feet (this does not include the liquids inside of built-in gas tanks of motor vehicles).
- At least two fire extinguishers must be kept on the ground with the kettle, away from the kettle and propane.

Memorize the PASS system for extinguishing a fire.

- ① P - Pull the pin.
- ② A - Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- ③ S - Squeeze the handle.
- ④ S - Sweep from side to side to cover the entire fire.

Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly.

- Make sure the locking pin is tied in place and is not bent.
- Note that the needle is in the proper pressure zone.
- Look for any rust, dents, or cracks anywhere on the casing.



Choosing the Right Fire Extinguisher Training Tips

- Demonstrate how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Allow employees to use the extinguisher if possible.
- Show them how far 50 and 100 feet are so they can see how close extinguishers need to be.
- Point out the locking pin and pressure gauge on the extinguisher.
- If your company uses other than ABC rated fire extinguishers, quiz the workers on the kinds of fires that can be put out with the different extinguishers you use.
- Ask the following questions: