GOAL: Teach employees how and when to use a fire extinguisher and how to select the right fire extinguisher for a fire.

APPLICABLE REGULATION: 29 CFR 1910.157

OSHA requires that employees be told about the fire hazards of materials and processes to which they are exposed, as well as know those parts of the fire prevention plan, pertinent to the employee’s response role or their protection in the event of an emergency.

OSHA also requires most employers to have and maintain a fire extinguisher.
- Approved, fully charged, operable extinguishers must be placed and identified, so employees can reach them easily (36 inch unobstructed clearance).
- Extinguishers must be visually inspected monthly (safety team completes these checks at Grand Rapids), reviewed by a third party at least yearly, and removed from service every 6 years to be inspected to be sure they are working properly.
- Grand Rapids has a facility map detailing the locations of all fire extinguisher. In your regular working areas, find the fire extinguishers that you would most likely use.

Classes of Extinguishers:
- Class A Extinguishers – used to wet down and cool fires involving paper, cloth, trash, wood, etc. Class A extinguisher numbers (1-A, 2-A, etc.) indicates what size of fire each extinguisher can handle. The higher the number, the larger the fire area it can handle. OSHA requires Class A extinguishers to be no more than 75 feet from the area of likely use.
- Class B Extinguishers – used on fires involving gases or flammable liquids. They cut off the oxygen to, or reduce flame in, fires involving combustibles such as grease, oil, paint, and solvents. Class B numbers (5-B, 10-B, etc.) tell how many square feet each extinguisher can handle. OSHA requires Class B extinguishers to be no more than 50 feet from the area of likely use.
- Class C Extinguishers – used on fires on or near electrical equipment. They use carbon dioxide or a dry chemical to put out these fires. NEVER USE WATER ON AN ELECTRICAL FIRE. Water conducts electricity and could cause a dangerous shock to the person holding the extinguisher. Class C extinguishers do not have numbers.
- Class D Extinguishers – used on metals- sodium, magnesium, zinc, potassium, powdered aluminum, titanium, and other combustible metal fires. Class D extinguishers are considered special hazard protection and have no numbers. They must be within 75 feet of operations that generate combustible metal powders, flakes, or shavings. (At GR there are no Class D Extinguishers)

USE ABC EXTINGUISHERS ON COMBINATION FIRES:
- The letters identify the type of fire they can handle
- This is the class of extinguisher used throughout Eaton.
- An ABC extinguisher is best suited for our industry due to its capabilities to extinguish 3 types of fires with one kind of extinguisher.
DANGERS AND ELEMENTS OF FIRES:
Fire claims the lives of over 5000 people each year in the US. Fire also causes thousands of disabling injuries, millions of dollars of property damage and countless lost jobs each year. There are several dangers associated with fires.
- Flame, heat, and smoke are the obvious dangers.
- Others are not readily known – suffocation, toxic vapors, or explosions.

Fire develops when three elements create a chain reaction.
- Fuel
  - Solids: Paper, wood rags
  - Liquids: Solvents, gasoline, oil
  - Flammable gases and vapors
- Oxygen: The greater the concentration of oxygen, the brighter the blaze and the more rapid the burning. Try to reduce extra sources of oxygen.
- Ignition source: Sparks, arcs, flames or sources of heat that could cause vaporization.

TO PREVENT FIRES KEEP THESE THREE ELEMENTS FROM COMING TOGETHER!

PROPER USE OF EXTINGUISHERS:
Only use an extinguisher when the fire is small enough (beginning stage) to handle with an extinguisher. As a general rule, if a fire is bigger than you are, it is more fire than a single extinguisher can handle and you should evacuate and summon outside emergency response team (Fire Department).

P.A.S.S.
1. P – Pull the Pin
2. A – Aim Carefully at the Base of the Fire
3. S – Squeeze the Trigger
4. S – Sweep the Extinguisher at the Base of the Fire

Be especially careful not to spread combustible fires (e.g., by blowing burning papers out of wastebasket)

CONCLUSION: Know how to choose and when to use a fire extinguisher. The right extinguisher, properly used, can handle small fires. In all other cases, turn in an alarm and leave the job to the trained firefighters.
Tornado Plan
During an event, go immediately to the nearest shelter shown on the facility map (shaded areas)

Fire Plan
During an event, go immediately to the nearest exit shown on the facility map and meet in your designated muster point

Legend
Symbol | Count | Description
--- | --- | ---
1 | 48 | AED
2 | 5 | Fire extinguisher
3 | 8 | Eye Wash
4 | 4 | Spill Cart
5 | 2 | First Aid
6 | 44 | Emergency Shower