

# NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

August 2022

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: FIVE MISTAKES NOT TO MAKE

Promote fire extinguisher safety in the workplace. Below are the five most common mistakes employers make regarding fire extinguishers:

### 1. EMPLOYEES NOT TRAINED

Cal OSHA requires ANY employee who will use a fire extinguisher to be trained annually. Make sure all employees receive training and have some experience pulling the trigger on the device.

### Remember the **PASS** Word

# P

**Pull** the pin (or other motion) to unlock the extinguisher.



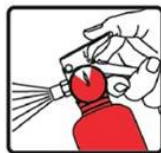
# A

**Aim** at the base (bottom) of the fire and stand 6 - 10 feet away.



# S

**Squeeze** the lever to discharge the agent.



# S

**Sweep** the spray from left to right until the flames are totally extinguished.



### 2. WRONG FIRE EXTINGUISHER USED

Not all fire extinguishers put out all fires. This is especially true when dealing with kitchen fires that have oils and fats as their fuel source. The proper extinguisher for a kitchen is K-rated, not an ABC. Learn the differences and make sure the right extinguishers are in the right areas.

### 3. NOT INSPECTED MONTHLY

Inspections help identify problems and deficiencies. Employee should not be reaching for a faulty extinguisher in the face of a fire. Make sure extinguishers are ready to fight when you are. Inspect them monthly.

### 4. NOT ENOUGH

Education code states that fire extinguishers are placed in all required areas including every classroom and assembly area. Time is precious in a fire, and not having enough fire extinguishers may result in fighting a bigger fire than you need to. Make sure extinguishers are properly placed and in the right quantity.

### 5. INSTALLED TOO HIGH

The ADA or American's with Disability Act requires that items be in reach of wheelchair users—fire extinguishers are no exception. Fire extinguishers must not be mounted higher than 48 inches from the floor.

Sources:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Stay-ing-safe/Safety-equipment/Fire-extinguishers>



### Contact Us

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