

## Use of (Portable) Fire Extinguishers SWP-006

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### 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide workers with guidelines for the proper selection and use of portable fire extinguishers.

### 2.0 Guidelines

- 2.1 The decision to use a portable fire extinguisher to extinguish/control a fire must be made based on the individuals knowledge, training, and experience of portable fire extinguishers.
- 2.2 Portable fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish/control small fires only.
- 2.3 Do not attempt to fight a large fire with a portable extinguisher. If a fire becomes too large or the environment becomes dangerous, employees must evacuate the area.
- 2.4 Keep extinguishers visible and accessible. Do not block access to fire extinguishers.
- 2.5 Purchase, install, and maintain extinguishers in accordance with Yukon OHS regulations.

### 3.0 Types of Fires

Class A - Ordinary combustible materials; such as, wood, paper, rags, garbage and other ordinary combustibles.

- Recommended Extinguishers - portable dry chemical extinguisher, water from hose.
- Fighting the Fire - Soak the fire completely – even the smoking embers.

Class B - Flammable liquids, oil and grease

- Recommended Extinguishers - portable dry chemical extinguisher, carbon dioxide or foam extinguishers.
- Fighting the Fire - Start at the base of the fire and use a swinging motion from left to right, always keeping the fire in front of you.

Class C - Electrical equipment

- Recommended Extinguishers - Carbon dioxide and portable dry chemical extinguishers.

## (Portable) Fire Extinguisher

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

Class D - Flammable metals (not typically encountered at YEC)

Class K - Fires involving cooking media (fats, grease, and oils) in commercial cooking sites (not typically encountered at YEC).

### 4.0 Types of portable fire extinguishers at YEC

4.1 Multi-purpose dry chemical –

- a.k.a. ABC extinguisher.
- Use for class A, B, and C fires.
- Range in size from 2 to 20 pound capacity.

4.2 Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) –

- Used for class C fires; energized electrical equipment.
- Range in size from 5 to 20-pound capacity.

**Note** - Fire extinguisher capacity is not an indication of the extinguisher weight. For example, a 20-pound ABC weighs approx. 35 pounds. A 20-pound CO<sub>2</sub> extinguisher can weigh 45-50 pounds.

### 5.0 How to use a portable fire extinguisher

Also see:

- Appendix A – Anatomy of a portable fire extinguisher
- Appendix B – Portable fire extinguisher operation.

5.1 Only fight a fire with a portable extinguisher if the fire is small enough to extinguish with the equipment available.

5.2 Activate the fire alarm before attempting to extinguish/control a fire.

5.3 Keep a safe exit at your back.

5.4 Hold the extinguisher upright; if there is a hose, remove it from clip.

5.5 Start approx. 10 feet from the fire.

## (Portable) Fire Extinguisher

5.6 To use a portable fire extinguisher, use the acronym **PASS** and follow these steps:

- P** **PULL** the pin from the handle of the extinguisher; breaking the thin plastic seal/tie.
- A** **AIM** the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- S** **SQUEEZE** the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent.
- S** **SWEEP** the extinguisher/hose from side to side while moving toward the fire until the extinguisher is empty.

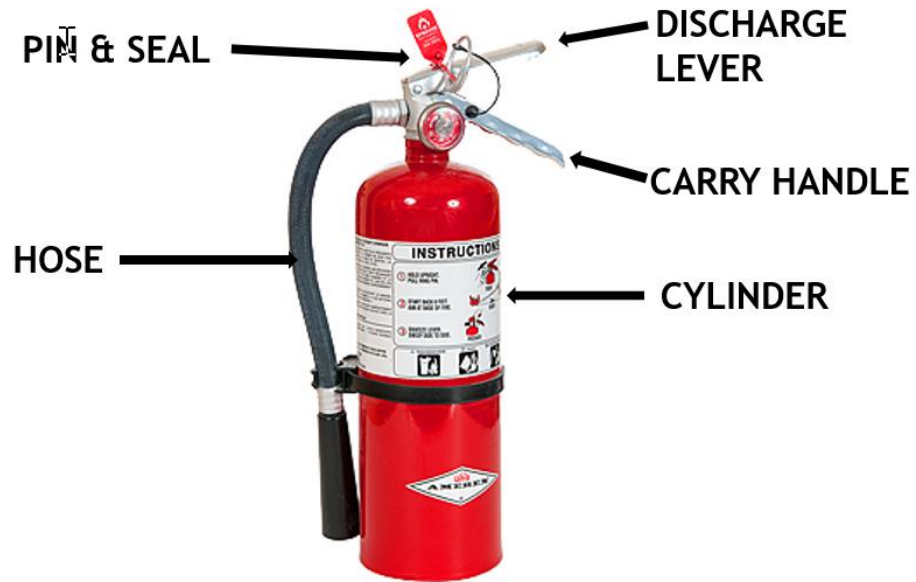
5.7 **NEVER** attempt to fight a fire if:

- The proper extinguisher is not available.
- The fire has spread beyond its point of origin.
- Your instincts tell you to “GET OUT”.

### 6.0 Reference documents

- SWP-006A; Fire Extinguisher Inspection.
- SWP-006B; (workplace) Fire Prevention.
- SWP-102; LNG – Fire Safety.
- Yukon OH&S Regulations; Part 1 – General; 1.70.
- National Fire Protection Association; NFPA 10 – Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.
- Fire extinguisher safety data sheet (SDS).

Appendix A – Anatomy of a portable fire extinguisher



Appendix B – Portable fire extinguisher operation.

Remember the Phrase **PASS**

**1 Pull**  
the pin



**2 Aim**  
at the base  
of the fire



**3 Squeeze**  
the handle



**4 Sweep**  
from side  
to side

