

Use of (Portable) Fire Extinguishers

SWP-006

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 individual's 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 combustibles; 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.
- 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 (CO₂) –
- 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 CO₂ 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.
- 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”.

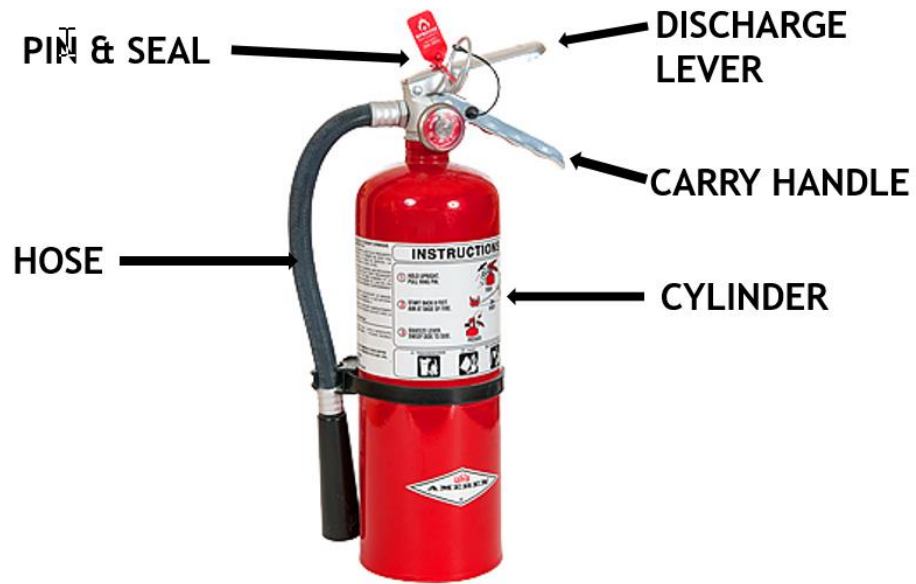
6.0 Reference documents

- SWP-006A; Fire Extinguisher Inspection.
- SWP-006B; (workplace) Fire Prevention.

(Portable) Fire Extinguisher

- 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

