



Petrotek

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

What do you think of when you see a fire extinguisher? You may think that someone else has the job of taking care of that, not me, or I sure hope I never have to use that thing. You may also wonder how the extinguisher works or if it even works for that matter. Well here are a few things you need to know about that fire extinguisher.

Before you use one, you must be trained in the proper use of it. Not just anyone should grab a hold of a fire extinguisher and try to put out a fire.

Fire extinguishers come in several types. The most popular is the ABC rated extinguisher. This type of fire extinguisher can put out a fire that is considered Class A, B, or C. A class "A" fire consists of material that will leave an ash

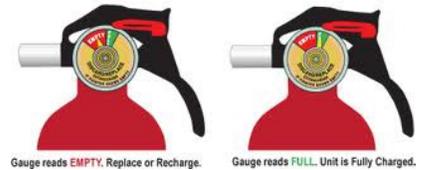


such as wood, paper, fabric, etc.... A class "B" fire is one that consists of liquid that will burn or gases that will burn such as hydrocarbons. A class "C" fire is one that is electrical in nature. Then there is a class "D" fire which is one that consists of burning metals like magnesium, aluminum and zirconium. And finally there is the class "K" fire or grease fire that is typically found in a kitchen. You should never try and put this type of fire out with water. An ABC fire extinguisher should work well on a class "K" fire.

So how do you know this fire extinguisher will work once you grab it? Does someone do an inspection on it? Is it ever maintained by a professional service? How big of a fire can I use it on? These are good questions.

Fire extinguishers have a tag attached to them. This tag is used to document that an annual service has been performed and that the monthly inspection has been completed by a qualified person. The annual service should be done by a certified fire extinguisher maintenance company. The monthly inspection should be done by someone who is knowledgeable about the fire extinguisher. The monthly inspection should review the gage if there is one, and ensure the safety pin and tamper seal are in place. The hose should be flexible and free of kinks, the discharge nozzle should be open and free of cracks or damage of any type. They should make sure it is located in the correct location, well identified and the label is clear and legible. Whoever does the monthly inspection should sign and date the attached card or if using an electronic tracking system, make sure it is recorded properly.

Inspect your fire extinguisher's gauge monthly.



So how big of a fire can you use the fire extinguisher on? Fire extinguishers are typically designed for incipient stage fires, or a fire about the size of an office trash can. If the fire is much bigger than that, a fire extinguisher may not be enough. In any fire situation always call for assistance from your local fire department.

Name & Signature of Employees at Tailgate Meeting

Referenced Standard: NFPA 10

Information is provided as general information only and should not be used as legal guidance to comply with federal, state or local regulations.

Contact Petrotek at 303.290.9414 or druddy@petrotek.com for safety support services.

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