



Emergency Preparedness:

FIRE SAFETY



OHSInsider

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TYPES OF FIRES & EXTINGUISHERS: Fires & fire extinguishers are classified by the type of fuel being consumed:

Classes of Fire	Picture Symbol	Types of Fire
A		Wood, paper, cloth, trash and other ordinary materials
B		Gasoline, oil, paint & other flammable liquids
C		May be used on fires involving live electrical equipment without danger to the operator
D		Combustible metals and combustible metal alloys
K		Cooking media (Vegetable or animal oils and fats)

5 Things Your Fire Safety Plan Should Do:

The OHS laws require you to take steps to protect workers in the event of a workplace fire. You can do so through a fire safety plan that should:

1. Include measures to control fire hazards, such as storage of flammable substances and explosives
2. Spell out procedures in case of a fire, including sounding the fire alarm, notifying the fire department and evacuating workers and others
3. Identify individuals designated to carry out specific duties under the plan and describe their responsibilities
4. Describe the training that must be provided to each individual with fire response duties
5. Address the procedures for and frequency of fire drills to verify the effectiveness of the plan as well as identify and correct weaknesses.

4 FIRE SAFETY LESSONS

1. Have a fire safety plan that complies with the OHS laws.
2. Have procedures to address the needs of any workers who are disabled and may need special assistance in an emergency.
3. Ensure the workplace has appropriate fire suppression and protection equipment, such as fire and smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems—and that they're working properly and easily accessible.
4. Make sure that your emergency exits and fire doors aren't blocked.

'PASS'

The Key to Using Fire Extinguishers

According to Fire Prevention Canada, the key to correctly using a fire extinguisher is the mnemonic device "PASS"

Pull the pin.
Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, inversion or other motion.

Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze or press the handle.

Sweep the extinguisher from side-to-side at the base of the fire & discharge the contents of the extinguisher.

TYPES OF FIRE SUPPRESSANTS

01

Water

Type: Pressurized, pump

How it works: Cools fire

Use on these fires: Class A fires—but NOT on Class B or C fires

02

Multipurpose Dry Chemical

Type: Stored pressure

How it works: Smothers fire with a layer of powder

Use on these fires: Class A, B & C fires

03

Chemical Foam

Type: Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF)

How it works: Smothers fire with foam

Use on these fires: Class A and B fires

04

Compressed Gas

Type: Halon, CO, (Note: Halon extinguishers are no longer made)

How it works: Smothers fire with gas

Use on these fires: Class B and C fires

Compliance Tip

To ensure that your workplace is adequately prepared for fires and other emergencies, go to the OHS Insider's Emergency Preparedness & Response Compliance Centre, which includes:

- ✓ Information on what the OHS laws require for fire preparedness and response
- ✓ Fire safety audit form
- ✓ Fire extinguisher inspection checklist
- ✓ Fire safety assessment form
- ✓ Fire safety checklist for industrial workplaces
- ✓ Fire safety checklist for offices.



On average, fire kills 8 people each week in Canada.

(Source: Fire Prevention Canada)