Fire Extinguishers

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the Occupational Safety web page.

General Information
Fire extinguishers are an excellent tool for putting out fires and reducing damage caused if they are used properly by trained users.

Classes of Fires
- Class A fires involve combustible solids such as wood or paper as fuel
- Class B fires involve flammable liquids such as gasoline as fuel
- Class C fires ignite from energized electrical equipment such as faulty wiring or fuse box
- Class D fires involve combustible metals like titanium or potassium as fuel
- Class K fires involve grease or oil as fuel and typically occur in kitchens

Types of Extinguishers
- ABC extinguishers are the most common type on campus
  - Used on class A, B, and C fires
- Carbon dioxide (CO2) extinguishers are found near high value equipment
  - Used on class B and C fires
- Wet Chemical extinguishers are found in commercial kitchens
  - Used on class K fires to create a barrier between the fuel and air

Safe Extinguisher Use
- Extinguishers should only be used if:
  - user is not in danger
  - user has been trained
  - 911 has been called
  - fire alarm is pulled
  - Use the correct extinguisher for the class of fire present
  - Use of an extinguisher is not required

Use the P. A. S. S. method
- Pull the pin
- Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire
- Squeeze the handle
- Sweep side to side

Discussion Date: __________________________

Supervisor: __________________________

Participants: __________________________