



# April Safety Talk

## Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers must be accessible, inspected at least annually and promptly refilled after use.

Extinguishers should be located:

- where flammable materials are stored, handled, or used
- where temporary oil or gas fired equipment is being used
- where welding or open flame cutting is being done
- on each storey of an enclosed building being constructed or renovated
- in shops for at least every 325 square metres (2,400 square feet) of floor area

Fire extinguishers are classified according to their capacity to fight specific kinds of fire.

### Class A

**For ordinary combustible material fires such as wood and paper where you need a quenching, cooling effect.**

### Class B

**For flammable liquid and gas fires such as oil, gasoline, paint, and grease where you need oxygen exclusion or flame interruption.**

### Class C

**For fires involving electrical wiring and equipment where you need a nonconductive extinguishing agent.**

### Class D

**For combustible metal fires such as sodium, magnesium, and potassium.**

Extinguishers have a very short duration of discharge – usually less than 30 seconds.

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire and direct the spray back and forth in a sweeping motion until the fire is extinguished.

The idea is to extinguish the flames at their source.

Once you've used an extinguisher, report it immediately to your supervisor.

We should all know how to operate a fire extinguisher before a fire starts.

**Contact your Fire Department for more information.**

