

# PLAYING IT **SAFE**

Be safe and healthy on the job with these helpful tips provided by  
**Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

## Fire Extinguisher Safety

### *Properly Fighting Small Fires*

Fire extinguishers are designed to fight small fires in their early stages when the fire presents a relatively small hazard to the operator.

An extinguisher can be used in what is known as the incipient stage, when the fire is:

- Small
- Slow growing
- Minimal smoke
- Minimal heat

If a fire is too large, if there is too much smoke or if you are too frightened, evacuate immediately.

#### **PASS**

To operate a fire extinguisher, we use this word PASS. Each letter represents one of the operations:

#### **P=Pull**

- The safety pin is usually held in place by a plastic seal, it will pull off
- Do not push down on the operating lever while pulling the pin, it won't come out

#### **A=Aim**

- Aim at the base of the fire, the lowest flame closest to you
- The base of the fire will recede from you as you use the extinguisher, so you must adjust your aim

#### **S=Squeeze**

- The operating lever is above the carrying handle. The operating lever opens the valve when you squeeze it down. When you let go, the

valve closes and the discharge stops

#### **S=Sweep**

- Sweep the nozzle by moving your arm at the elbow
- Direct the discharge to cover the entire width of the base of the fire

#### **Know Your A, B, Cs**

Using the wrong fire extinguisher can result in more damage than the fire itself. All extinguishers have nameplates identifying their usage instructions, as outlined below.

#### **Class A Fires**

- Fires involving freely burning materials. For example, wood, paper, textiles and other carbonaceous materials.
- Only use a Class A extinguisher for these items and never use one on a gas or electrical fire.

#### **Class B Fires**

- Fires involving flammable liquids. For example, petrol and spirits.
- Use a Class B extinguisher only to fight these fires.

#### **Class C Fires**

- Fires involving flammable gasses. For example, LPG and butane.
- Use a Class C extinguisher only to fight these fires.



#### **Know When to Go**

Never feel like you have to stay and fight a fire. If at any point while using an extinguisher you become uncomfortable with the situation or feel like your safety is threatened, get out immediately. Your life is worth more than any property.

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