# Fire Extinguisher PASS Word

#### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Using a portable fire extinguisher is an important safety skill. You never know when you might have to use it at work, home or on the road.

### WHAT'S THE DANGER?

To extinguish small fires before they become large, extinguishers' contents smother or cool the flames. However, not everyone knows how to use an extinguisher. If a fire broke out in your work area, you need to stop it before it spreads. You wouldn't have time to ask your safety officer to teach you how to use equipment.

#### **EXAMPLE**

Barney's heart pounded when he opened the back room and saw smoke and a small but growing flame. Hands shaking, he yanked a fire extinguisher off the wall. Someone had taped a note on it – "P.A.S.S." Barney recognized the reminder, but too many months had passed since he had that safety lesson. Unable to remember the steps for using an extinguisher, he yelled for help. By the time a coworker heard him, the room was ablaze

## **HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

- When you notice a fire, sound the building's alarm and call the fire department. If you don't feel you can handle the fire, leave immediately. Get everyone out of the building. Close doors behind you to slow the flames' spread, but don't lock any doors. Stay between fire and exit so you don't let the fire block your escape.
- If the fire is small enough to put out with a portable extinguisher, you can do so swiftly by telling yourself to P.A.S.S. "PASS" is an easily remembered abbreviation describing the fourstep process for most fire extinguishers: Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep.

**PULL** the pin. On some extinguishers, you release a latch or press a lever.

**AIM** the nozzle at the base of the fire.

**SQUEEZE** or press the handle. Or you may have to press a button to discharge the extinguishing agent.

**SWEEP** from side to side, aiming at the base of the fire until the flames appear to be out. Repeat if the fire reappears.

- Don't turn your back on a fire once you think it's out, because it could flare up again.
- Avoid breathing smoke, fumes or extinguishing agent.
- Take care of the extinguisher and recharge it after each use.

#### **FINAL WORD**

You can put out small fires by knowing where a fire extinguisher is and how to use it. Remember to Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep.

# QUIZ

- 1. A portable fire extinguisher is meant to extinguish large fires.
  - o True
  - False
- 2. The contents of portable fire extinguishers smother or cool fires.
  - o True
  - False
- 3. The four steps for using most fire extinguishers are: Pull, Aim, \_\_\_\_ and Sweep.
- 4. You can safely turn your back on a fire once you think it's out.
  - o True
  - False
- 5. You should recharge the extinguisher after each use.
  - True
  - False

#### **BEFORE THE TALK - TIPS**

# AFTER THE TALK- CHECKLIST

- 1. Prepare to discuss the four major kinds of extinguishers, each designed to put out different kinds of fires, and why it's important to use the right one for the job: an ABCD or K. Be sure to add that some fire extinguishers put out more than one type of fire and are labeled this way. An ABC extinguisher, for example, will put out most fires.
- Prepare to discuss the fact that fire extinguishers need to be serviced and maintained regularly, and that no one should cover or block access to a fire extinguisher.
- 3. Ask your workers if they furnish their home, workshop and vehicle with the appropriate extinguisher.
- 4. Ask a volunteer to dramatize an important point (without using fire or smoke). The point to be illustrated by a mime is that if you get caught in smoke, you should crawl because smoke rises and leaves air near the floor clearer.
- Get a volunteer to demonstrate "stop, drop and roll" (without fire). Remind employees that clothing can burn rapidly and to never run if their clothes ignite. Instead, they should stop, drop to the floor and roll to smother the flames.

PROVIDED FOLLOW-UP TO WORKERS THAT DID
POORLY ON THE QUIZ
NAME:
DATE:
OBSERVED WORKERS
TASK(S):
DATE:
REFRESHER TRAINING
TOPIC(S):
DATE:
OTHER (DESCRIBE):
MEETING DATE:
LOCATION:

NOTES		

#### **ANSWERS:**

- 1. False
- 2. True
- 3. Squeeze

- 4. False
- 5. true



ATTENDANCE		
INSTRUCTOR:	DATE:	
SAFETY TALK:		
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