



MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC – OCTOBER 2024

Fire Safety and Prevention

Fires, whether in the workplace, home, or outdoors, can have devastating consequences. Everyone plays a part in preventing fires, no matter the location. Districts should maintain fire extinguishers in easy to locate areas and provide training for staff in their use.

Below are some critical fire safety and prevention strategies that everyone should keep in mind:



- Never overload an electrical outlet or circuit by plugging in too many items. Overloading outlets and circuits will generate heat in the cord, compromising the cord and potentially igniting a fire.
- Inspect all electrical extension cords, appliance cords, power strips, and surge protectors for damage, including cuts, frayed or exposed wires, and missing ground prongs. Throw it away if it is compromised in any way. Purchase a quality replacement.
- Move excess combustible materials (paper, cardboard, dry vegetation) away from heat and ignition sources such as gas-fired water heaters, electrical equipment, or

other heat-producing devices such as space heaters.



Good housekeeping goes a long way in preventing fires!

A fire needs three elements to burn: fuel, oxygen, and a heat source. The fire must have all three elements to continue burning. If any one element is removed, the fire will be extinguished. This is the purpose of the fire extinguisher, to remove one or more of the three elements.



There are several types of fire extinguishers available, but the best type for general use is a multipurpose “ABC” type extinguisher. ABC type extinguishers use a dry chemical powder to extinguish fires and are capable of putting out most common fires. Extinguishers are rated for the type of fire they are made to extinguish:

- **A** – Ordinary combustible materials such as wood, paper, hay etc.
- **B** – Flammable liquids such as oil, grease, paint, and petroleum products
- **C** – Electrical fires



Use the P.A.S.S. method

- Pull the Pin
- Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire
- Squeeze the handle
- Sweep back and forth to cover the fire



PULL



SQUEEZE



AIM



SWEEP



Steps to Take When a Fire is Discovered:

- Make sure everyone gets out of the building/area. **Protect people first, property second!**
- Direct someone to call 911 and activate your District’s emergency response procedures. Fires can spread quickly!
- If you decide to fight the fire, select the appropriate fire extinguisher, remain a safe distance, and follow P.A.S.S. procedures (PULL. AIM. SQUEEZE. SWEEP.)
- If you have the slightest doubt about your ability to fight a fire, **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!**
- Always keep yourself between the fire and an escape route so you can exit quickly and safely. Never turn your back on a fire! Remember that an extinguisher is usually emptied in 15-45 seconds. If the fire remains after the extinguisher is emptied, **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!**