

TOOLBOX TALKS

General Health & Safety

Fire Extinguishers

All vehicles must be equipped with easily accessible fire extinguishers

How do Fires start?

There are several causes, and, in each case, you need to put out any fire as soon as possible to avoid terminal vehicle damage and any threat to life. Overheating and fuel leaks are a core cause, as are electrical shorts.

Discussion point: What are the other causes?

Fire types

Fire is defined by what feeds it, and, in the case of a vehicle, that could be several things.

Class A: Fires involving paper, wood, textiles and plastics.

Class B: Fires involving flammable liquids like fuel, cooking oils, kerosene.

Class C: Fires involving live electrical equipment, which is found all over your car.

These three basic fire types are generally dealt with differently, and with different substances.

Selecting a Fire Extinguisher

Choose or purchase a fire extinguisher that is marked with ratings.

Note that the Class number is followed by a numeral – this is linked to the capacity of the extinguisher. The higher the number, the greater the capacity.

To be on the safe side, always go straight to a unit from an SABS-approved manufacturer.



What to do if there is a fire?

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- If appropriate, sound the fire alarm or call the fire department immediately.
- Before approaching the fire, determine an evacuation route safe of flames, excessive heat, and smoke. Do not allow this evacuation route to become blocked.
- Use the **PASS** technique for discharging an extinguisher and back away from the area if the fire flares up again.
- If the extinguisher is empty and the fire is not out, evacuate immediately.
- If the fire grows beyond what can be safely handled, evacuate immediately.

Fire extinguishers are meant to handle only small fires. If a fire becomes too large or the environment becomes too dangerous, employees should know when and how to evacuate the area. If any of the following conditions are present, workers should follow evacuation procedures immediately and should not attempt to fight the fire with an extinguisher:

The fire is too large. The fire involves flammable solvents, is partially hidden behind a wall or ceiling, cannot be reached from a standing position, or covers more than 60 square feet in area.

The air is unsafe to breathe. Levels of smoke make the fire impossible to fight without some form of respiratory protection.

The environment is too hot or smoky. Radiated heat is easily felt, making it hard to approach a fire within adequate range of using the extinguisher (about 10-15 feet). It is necessary to crawl on the floor to avoid heat or smoke. Visibility is poor.

Evacuation paths are impaired. The fire is not contained and heat, smoke or flames block potential evacuation routes.

Discussion Point: Are you trained to use a fire extinguisher? When last was an emergency drill conducted?

Emergency Preparedness

Fire drills are to be carried out periodically in order to:

1. Give employees an opportunity to practice emergency procedures
2. Determine if employees understand and can carry out emergency duties
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of evacuation procedures and determine necessary changes or adjustments to procedures to improve performance
4. Comply with requirements of the company Codes of Practices and Emergency Procedures



DISCUSSION

Questions from staff

Comments by staff

Suggestions from staff

TOOLBOX TALK ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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Site/Department:		Facilitator Signature:	
Topic:			

The information in this document had been explained to me and I understand the content

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