

Fire Extinguishers

Fires do not happen often within the workplace, but when they do they can be very dangerous and destructive if the hazards are not managed properly. Take the time to learn about fire safety to protect ourselves, co-workers and the company from the risk of fire.

In the event of a fire, knowing how to properly use a fire extinguisher can make a big difference in minimizing damage and preventing potential injuries or fatalities. Proper training enables individuals to swiftly and confidently respond to fires, allowing them to contain or extinguish small fires before they escalate into uncontrollable blazes. Such knowledge not only protects lives but also mitigates property loss. Learning how to use fire extinguisher plays in ensuring a secure and prepared workplace environment.

Classes of Fires

Fires are grouped into classes based on the combustible material.

Class A - Ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, cloth, rubber, or plastics.

Class B - Flammable or combustible liquids, gases, oil, paints, or lacquer.

Class C - Energized electrical equipment such as motors, appliances, or power tools.

Class D - Combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, and potassium.

Class K - Combustible cooking oils, or fats in cooking appliances.



Fire Tetrahedron

To prevent and extinguish fires it is important to understand how a fire takes place. The following four elements must happen at the same time for a fire to occur.

- » Fuel or Combustible Material - something to burn (paper, oil, etc.)
- » Heat - to raise the material to its ignition (burning) temperature
- » Oxygen - to sustain combustion (the fire)
- » Chemical Reaction - the process of burning

If you remove any of these four elements, the fire will extinguish!

Types of Fire Extinguishers

Water (A)

Extinguishes Class A fires by removing heat and oxygen.

Colour code: Red

Foam (A-B-C or B-C)

Extinguishes Class A-B-C or B-C fires by removing oxygen and breaking the chemical reaction.

Colour code: Pink

Carbon Dioxide (B-C)

Extinguishes Class B-C fires by removing oxygen.

Colour code: Black

Dry Powder (D)

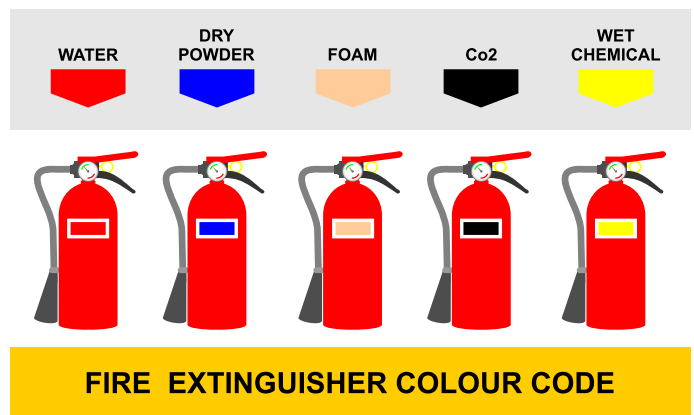
Extinguishes Class D fires by removing heat and oxygen.

Colour code: Blue

Wet Chemical (K)

Extinguishes Class K fires by removing heat and oxygen.

Colour code: Yellow



Fire Extinguisher Inspections

All fire extinguishers are inspected by a manufacturer's representative at least annually or as recommended by the manufacturer. Portable fire extinguishers must also be inspected monthly (initial on inspection tag).

(continued on next page)

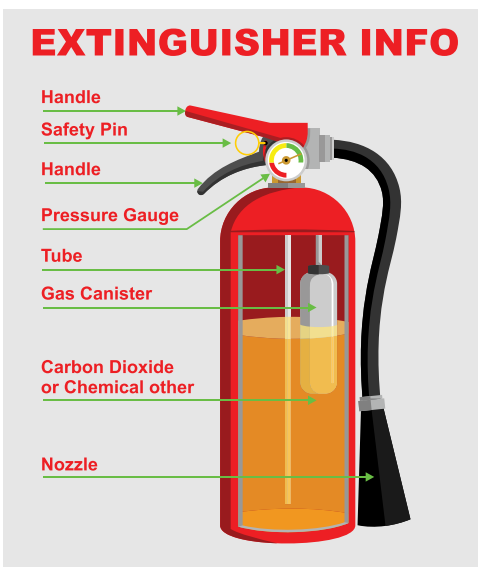


» RISK. PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED.

Phone: 204-632-6600 | Email: info@rpmsafety.ca | Web: www.rpmsafety.ca
Address: 25 Bunting Street Winnipeg, MB R2X 2P5

Inspections are to include the following items:

1. Fire extinguisher is easily accessible:
 - I. Easily reached (no obstructions)
 - II. Locations signs clear
 - III. Class markings clear
 - IV. Operating instructions clear
2. Fire extinguisher is well supported and hangers are fastened solidly
3. Fire extinguisher is in good working condition:
 - I. Discharge opening is clear (hose and nozzle)
 - II. It is fully charged (green section on gauge)
 - III. No damage or signs of tampering (dents)
 - IV. Ring pin/safety pin is in place and the seal is intact (holding the ring pin in place)
4. Fire extinguisher inspection tag is current (tag labeled for the year and initialed per month)
 - I. If the fire extinguisher passes inspection, initial next to the current month



P-A-S-S

When using an extinguisher, think PASS- Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep!

Pull the pin

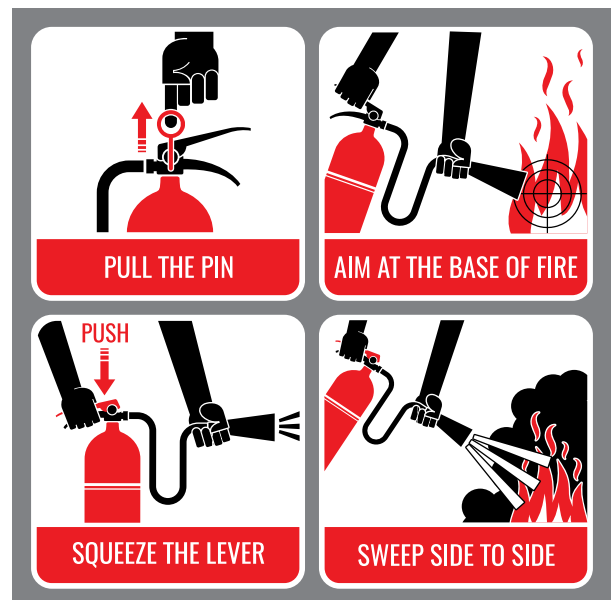
Aim low

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly

Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side (10 to 60 sec.).

Floor Fires — sweep from the edges in

Wall Fires — sweep from the bottom up



Fighting Fires

Use a fire extinguisher when the fire is in a small area and not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke. If you are not confident in your ability do not fight the fire. Never fight a fire if:

- » You do not know what material is burning
- » You do not know what type of fire extinguisher to use
- » You do not know how to use the fire extinguisher
- » The fire is spreading beyond the spot where it started
- » Your instincts tell you not to

(continued on next page)



» RISK. PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED.

Phone: 204-632-6600 | Email: info@rpmsafety.ca | Web: www.rpmsafety.ca
Address: 25 Bunting Street Winnipeg, MB R2X 2P5

IMPORTANT

- » Always stand between the escape route and the fire so you can leave safely if the fire grows.
- » If the fire grows too large leave the area, and pull the fire alarm if it has not been pulled already.
- » Have the fire department inspect the area even if you are sure the fire is extinguished.

Relevant Legislation

Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations Fire Extinguishers

- » 14.12 (1) An employer shall equip motorized materials handling equipment that is used for transporting or handling flammable substances with a dry chemical fire extinguisher.
- (2) A fire extinguisher referred to in subsection (1) shall have not less than a 5 B, C rating as defined in the National Fire Code; meet the standards set out in section 6.2 of the National Fire Code; and be so located that it is readily accessible to the operator of the motorized materials handling equipment while the operator is in the operating position.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to motorized materials handling equipment that is used exclusively within a building that has the fire extinguishers required by Part XVII.

Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Regulation

- » Fire protection equipment and fire extinguishers
- 19.3(1) An employer must ensure that fire protection equipment of an appropriate type and sufficient size and capacity to be effective is installed in the workplace in accordance with the Manitoba Fire Code; and portable fire extinguishers are located in the workplace in accordance with the Manitoba Fire Code.
- 19.3(2) An employer must ensure that all fire protection equipment and portable fire extinguishers

are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the Manitoba Fire Code.

Safety requirements 22.7(1) An employer and a supplier must ensure that powered mobile equipment is equipped with (b) a portable fire extinguisher that meets the applicable requirements for extinguishers contained in the Manitoba Fire Code;

Do you need more information? RPM can help!

We offer the following courses as self-led eLearning training:

- » [Workplace Inspection Training](#): Workplace Inspection Training will give people the opportunity to explain the requirements and the purpose(s) of a workplace inspection, know what you're looking for and how to identify a hazard, the process of what to do when there are inspection findings, and understand the process for implementing corrective actions and how to monitor and identify trends.
- » [Hazard Identification and Risk Control](#): Recognizing what could injure workers on the job is the first step to ensuring that they stay safe. A proactive approach to the mitigation of workplace hazards greatly increases the chance of less severe and lower rates of injury.
- » [Safety for Supervisors](#): The objective of this course is to ensure supervisors are provided with information, tools and resources to effectively perform their safety and health roles and responsibilities.

RPM's safety advisors have also developed the attached [Fire Extinguisher Inspections video](#) of the step-by-step process needed to complete a monthly fire extinguisher inspection.

Please note RPM courses are offered to RPM registered companies only. Your company must be registered with RPM and be in the process of working towards certification or must have achieved the SAFE Work Manitoba Trucking Certificate of Recognition. Not yet registered in the RPM program? Today is a great day to get started!



» RISK. PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED.

Phone: 204-632-6600 | Email: info@rpmsafety.ca | Web: www.rpmsafety.ca
Address: 25 Bunting Street Winnipeg, MB R2X 2P5