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USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

General

Good Housekeeping is essential in the prevention of fires. Fires can start anywhere and at any time. This is why it is important to know which fire extinguisher to use and how to use it.

Always keep fire extinguishers visible and easy to get at. Fire extinguishers have to be properly maintained to do the job. Where temperature is a factor, ensure that care is taken in selecting the right extinguisher.

Types of Fires

Class A: These fires consist of wood, paper, rags, rubbish and other ordinary combustible materials.

Recommended Extinguishers

Water from a hose, pump type water can, or pressurized extinguisher, and soda acid extinguishers.

Fighting the Fire

Soak the fire completely-even the smoking embers.

Class B: Flammable liquids, oil and grease

Recommended Extinguishers

ABC units, dry chemical, foam and carbon dioxide extinguishers.

Fighting the Fire

Start at the base of the fire and use a swinging motion from the left to right, always keeping the fire in front of you.

Class C: Electrical equipment

Recommended Extinguishers

Carbon dioxide and dry chemical (ABC units) extinguishers.

Fighting the Fire

Use short bursts on the fire. When the electrical current is shut off on a Class C fire, it can become a Class A fire if the materials around the electrical fire are ignited.