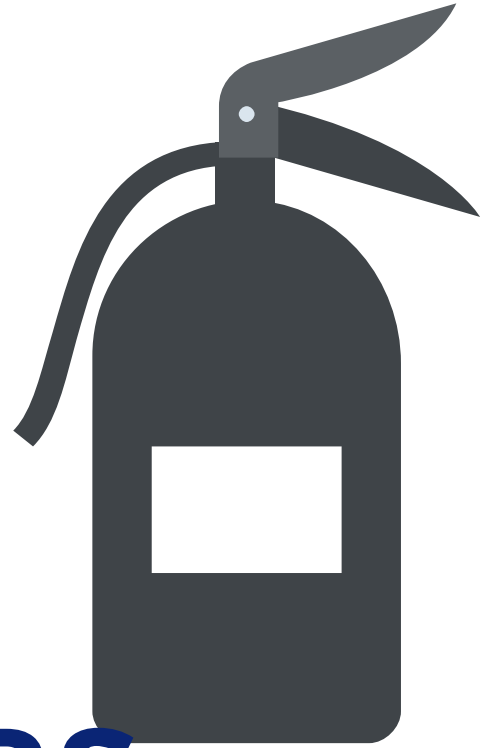


FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



A MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC
BY SAFER VRS

INTRODUCTION

The third lifesaving rule focuses on the importance of fire extinguishers. It is crucial for properties to have a fully charged fire extinguisher that is rated A, B, C for all types of fires. The letters A, B, and C represent the classification of fire, which include ordinary combustible materials (Class A), energized electrical equipment (Class B), and flammable and combustible liquids (Class C). There is also a new type of fire extinguisher known as Class K, which is used for cooking oil fires.

It is recommended to have a fire extinguisher on every floor of the property and within 30 feet of the cooking appliances. The fire extinguisher should be mounted between three to five feet off the floor, making it easily accessible for most adults and older children. In cases where the fire extinguisher is located in an obscured or obstructed area, such as a pantry or laundry room, a notice must be placed on the door to indicate its location.

Types of Fire Extinguishers:

Fire extinguishers are designed to combat different types of fires, and are categorized based on the type of fuel that is burning. The common fire classifications include Class A fires which involve ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, and cloth; Class B fires which involve flammable liquids and gases; Class C fires which involve electrical equipment; Class D fires which involve flammable metals, and Class K fires which involve cooking oils and fats.



Different types of fire extinguishers are suited to different types of fires, and it is important to choose the right one for each situation. Some of the most common types of fire extinguishers include: water, foam, dry powder, CO₂, and wet chemical fire extinguishers.

Location of Fire Extinguishers:

Fire extinguishers should be strategically placed in buildings, ensuring that they are accessible and within reach when needed. The location of fire extinguishers will depend on several factors, including the size of the building, the type of fire that is most likely to occur, and the availability of fire alarms and other fire suppression systems.

In general, fire extinguishers should be located near the exits, near the fire alarm panel, in areas where flammable liquids or gases are stored, in kitchens, and near electrical equipment. They should be placed in clear view, without obstructions, and at a height that is easily accessible to all users.

Additionally, fire extinguishers should be located in such a way that they are easily visible in case of an emergency, so people can quickly locate and use them.

- At least one mounted within 30 feet of cooking appliances on every floor of the property.
- Mounted at least three feet off the floor and not more than five feet.
- If the fire extinguisher is located in an obstructed or obscured area, a notice must be on the door to indicate its location.

SELF VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Verify that the fire extinguisher is rated for the type of fire it is intended to be used on.
- ✓ Inspect the fire extinguisher every 12 months.
- ✓ Make sure the location of the fire extinguisher is clearly identified and easily known.
- ✓ Provide instructions for the use of the fire extinguisher to all guests.

CONCLUSION

Fire safety is of utmost importance in any property. By understanding the different types of fire extinguishers and where they should be placed, ensuring regular self-verification checks, and providing proper training and instructions, you can help ensure a safe environment for all occupants in the event of a fire emergency. The steps outlined in this handout provide a comprehensive guide to fire safety, so be sure to follow them to keep your property and the people in it safe.