

MEDICAL TRAVELERS, INC.

Fire Safety Study Guide

Fire is a chemical reaction called combustion. Fire needs fuel, oxygen and heat in order to burn. Fire extinguishers apply an agent that will cool burning fuel or restrict or remove oxygen so the fire cannot continue to burn. Small fires can be quickly controlled by a portable fire extinguisher.

Fire extinguishers are located throughout every building on campus. To properly use an extinguisher, you must first be familiar with what type of fire each extinguisher is rated for, then know how it operates.

Fire Classifications

"Class A" are fires involving the ordinary combustible materials such as wood, cloth, paper, plastics etc.

"Class B" are fires involving combustible or flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene and oils

"Class C" are fires involving energized electrical equipment such as appliances of all kinds, motors, computers etc.

"Class D" are fires involving combustible metals such as sodium, lithium, titanium, magnesium.

How To Use A Portable Fire Extinguisher

The easiest way to remember how to use a portable fire extinguisher is to use the acronym "P.A.S.S."

Pull the safety pin

Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the flames

Squeeze the trigger while holding the extinguisher upright

Sweep the extinguisher from side to side, covering all areas of the fire with extinguishing agent

REMEMBER: All fires will be reported. Even though it appears to be extinguished, a Fire Department will still need to respond to verify it's out as well as accomplish a report

Remember

Always know the location of the nearest extinguisher, that it's in operable condition and

how to use it

Before using the fire extinguisher, evacuate the building by pulling the fire alarm. Don't wait until the fire gets out of control

Only attempt extinguisher if the fire is small - if one extinguisher doesn't do it, evacuate

While fighting the fire, don't allow your escape route to become blocked by fire

After an extinguisher is used, even just a little bit, you must contact the Fire Marshall's office to have it recharged

R.A.C.E.: Remove, Alarm, Confine and Extinguish

This easy to remember acronym is our University procedure in the case of a fire. Particularly in the hospital, every staff member is trained to recognize and respond appropriately in the case of a fire using this term.

Remove - Remove all everyone from the area. If a fire occurred in a patient room the staff should immediately remove the patient from the area.

Alarm - The Fire Alarm Pull Station shall be activated. Fire Alarm Pull Stations are located throughout the buildings, several on each floor. By activating the Fire Alarm a fire action plan is set into motion where University Police receive the signal and Initiate the emergency response. In addition certain systems that could increase fire spread are automatically shut down.

Contain - Once the room or area has been cleared of patients the door shall be closed, thus confining the fire, which enables the fire response team the time needed to arrive.

Extinguish or Evacuate - When practical and only when an employee has been properly trained in the safe and proper use of a fire extinguisher, extinguisher shall be attempted using *one* fire extinguisher. Evacuate if you are not comfortable using a fire extinguisher or if more than one extinguisher is needed.