

SAFETY FOCUSED

Presented by

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Effective Use of Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are useful in preventing small fires from becoming larger and more threatening to you and those around you. In order to safely and successfully eliminate a fire with an extinguisher, there are a few tips and procedures you should follow.

Use the PASS Method

The PASS method is the safest and most effective way to use a fire extinguisher. The acronym will remind you to:

- P**ull out the pin on the fire extinguisher.
- A**im low, pointing the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- S**weep the nozzle from side to side.

Safety First

Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher is one thing, but it's also important to know what to do before approaching a fire.

- If necessary, alert the fire department or sound the fire alarm.
- Always establish an evacuation plan.
- Only try to extinguish a fire that is slow growing, small, and giving off minimal heat and smoke.

If at any point the fire cannot be controlled or you become frightened, evacuate immediately and wait for the fire department to arrive.

Talk to your employer to familiarize yourself with proper evacuation procedures and the locations of all fire extinguishers on the premises.

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The Reality of Work-related Asthma

Work-related asthma is a condition caused by exposure to certain workplace environments, and it can cause serious long-term health issues if not treated.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms can vary and depend on the substance you've been exposed to and how long you've been exposed. Some symptoms can appear within hours, and some may not surface for years. Common signs and symptoms of asthma include:

- Reduced productivity
- Wheezing, shortness of breath and coughing
- Chest tightness
- Congestion and runny nose
- Eye irritation and tearing

Who's at Risk?

Almost anyone could be at risk for work-related asthma. However, common risk factors include smoking, pre-existing asthma or allergies, and exposure to substances that trigger asthma.

When to See a Doctor

Seek medical attention if you're experiencing asthmatic symptoms or if your symptoms begin to worsen. Severe asthma attacks can lead to death if untreated—seek emergency treatment if symptoms become severe and other treatments aren't successful.

If you believe you are suffering from work-related asthma, contact a medical professional immediately. Ask a manager or health care provider about ways to protect yourself from work-related asthma.



According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, there are more than 250 recognized substances that can cause or worsen work-related asthma.

