DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE EXTINGUISHER AWARENESS AND PROPER USAGE
FIGHT OR FLEE?

• Fire is the most common emergency that must be planned for
• Should you attempt to fight a fire or just evacuate?
• Small fires can be put out by a well-trained employee
• Employees must understand the use and limitation of a fire extinguisher
FIGHT OR FLEE?

• Understand the hazards of fighting fires
• Training is conducted annually for all designated employees
• Only well-trained employees should consider fighting a fire
• Even if your trained, only fight the fire if you are sure of your abilities and your safety
DEFINITION OF FIRE

• Fire is a very rapid chemical reaction between oxygen and a combustible material, which results in the release of heat, light, flames, and smoke.
THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF FIRE

• For a fire to exist, the following four elements must be present:
  1. Enough oxygen to sustain combustion
  2. Enough heat to raise a material to its ignition temperature
  3. Fuel or combustible material
  4. The chemical reaction that is fire
RISK ASSESSMENT

• Is the fire in its incipient stage?
• What is your visibility?
• Is there a significant temperature change?
• What is burning?
• Do you have a safe evacuation path?
WHEN SHOULD YOU USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

• The fire is contained, hasn’t spread to other materials and the flames are small
• The visibility in the room is still good
• The heat in the room is only slightly increased
• Burning material is known
• There is a clear pathway out of room
WHEN YOU SHOULD NOT USE AN EXTINGUISHER

• The fire has spread to other materials, large flames present
• Visibility is impaired
• Extreme temperature change easily felt outside of room
• Presence of unknown or dangerous materials
• Obstructed escape path; rapid deterioration of conditions within the room
HOW A FIRE EXTINGUISHER WORKS

• Portable fire extinguishers apply an extinguishing agent that will either cool burning fuel, displace or remove oxygen, or stop the chemical reaction so a fire cannot continue to burn.

• When the handles of an extinguisher are compressed, agent is expelled out the nozzle.
ANATOMY OF AN EXTINGUISHER

- Safety Pin
- Nozzle
- Pressure gauge
- Handle
- Tube
- High Pressure Gas Canister
- Dry Chemical, Carbon Dioxide, or Water
TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS
TYPE A

• Water: used for paper, cloth, wood, rubber, and many plastic fires
TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE B

- CO2: used for oils, gasoline, some paints, lacquers, grease, solvents, and other flammable liquids
TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS
TYPE C

• Dry Chemical: wiring, fuse boxes, energized electrical equipment, computers, and other electrical sources
Types of Extinguishers

TYPE A-B-C

• Multi-Purpose: can be used all of the previous types of fires
TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE K

• Class K: can be used for fires involving combustible cooking fluids such as oils and fats (Dry & Wet Chemical Extinguishers)
TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

TYPE B-C

• B-C: can be used for flammable liquid or electrical fires
P.A.S.S.

Know the *P*A*S*S* Word

Pull Aim Squeeze Sweep
THE PASS METHOD

• 1) **Pull** the pin

• 2) **Aim** at the base of the fire

• 3) **Squeeze** the handles together to release extinguishing agent

• 4) **Sweep** from side to side
IMPORTANT SAFETY

• If you have the slightest doubt about your ability to fight a fire, ... **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY**!
VISUAL INSPECTION OF EXTINGUISHER

• Is each extinguisher in its proper place, clearly visible and not blocked by any obstructions?
• Is the faceplate with operating instructions facing outward?
• Does the pressure gauge show the needle is in the green area (indicating that the extinguisher is fully charged)?
• Is the pin or tamper seal still intact?
VISUAL INSPECTION OF EXTINGUISHER

• Does the extinguisher appear to be in good condition, showing no signs of physical damage, corrosion, or leakage?
• If you did not answer **YES** for all of the above questions, have the extinguisher fixed or replaced immediately!
• Inform the Fire Safety Officer or Public Safety Department of any problems immediately
STEPS TO BE TAKEN WHEN USING AN EXTINGUISHER

• Pull the fire alarm

• Do your assessment

• Use the extinguisher

• Advise Molloy Public Safety and the Rockville Centre Fire Department of the exact location of the fire and what was involved
FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTION

• The Fire Safety Officer is required to inspect every fire extinguisher on a monthly basis.
• The company that services the fire extinguishers are required to perform an annual inspection of all fire extinguishers.
• Check the extinguishers as you go about your regular duties and report any problems discovered to Public Safety.
POINTS TO REMEMBER

• If you are using a CO2 extinguisher don’t touch the discharge horn, it gets very cold and may damage your skin
• You must notify Public Safety to get a replacement extinguisher for the one used
• An incident report must be completed whenever an extinguisher is used
• Your safety and others depend on working extinguishers