

J.A. Rosa Construction, LLC  
**PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**  
**29 CFR 1910.157**

This procedure establishes minimum standards for the placement, use, maintenance, and testing of portable fire extinguishers.

**Scope** This procedure applies to all of our company employees, all contractors and vendors performing work on company property, and all other individuals who are visiting or have business with our company.

**Responsibilities** – Management is responsible for development and review of this program. Management is also responsible for appropriate employee training. – Management and supervisors are responsible for enforcement of this program. – Employees shall comply with all procedures outlined in this policy. – Contractors and vendors shall comply with all procedures outlined in this policy.

## Definitions

**Agent:** The contents of a fire extinguisher that causes extinguishment upon application to the fire. Agent types include: – Water and water based foam – Ordinary dry chemical (sodium bicarbonate base) and Purple K (potassium bicarbonate base) – Multi-purpose dry chemical (monoammonium phosphate base) – Inert gas (carbon dioxide) – Halon – Halon Replacement – Dry Powder-various dry compounds for fighting combustible metal fires

**Class:** The Class of fire indicates the fuel that is burning. Class is useful in labeling fire extinguishers for use since all agents are not effective on all fires.

Fire Classes are: –

- Class A*, ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, etc.) –
- Class B*, flammable and combustible liquids and gasses –
- Class C*, energized electrical equipment –
- Class D*, combustible metals –
- Class K*, cooking oils and fats



# CLASSES OF FIRES



**Class A**  
General flammable materials such as fabric, paper, and lumber.



**Class B**  
Combustible liquids such as motor oil, automotive fuel, and paint.



**Class C**  
Electric current and devices.



**Class D**  
Flammable metal.



**Class K**  
Kitchen flammables, such as grease or fat used in a frying pan or deep fryer.

EXTINGUISHER TYPE	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	CLASS D	CLASS K
FOAM SPRAY	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
ABC POWDER	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
CARBON DIOXIDE	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
WET CHEMICAL	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
WATER	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

**Incipient Stage Fire:** The beginning or initial stage of a fire. Generally, the heat and smoke production and fire growth are manageable. If an employee believes that a fire is too big, too smoky or too hot, the fire is not an incipient stage fire.

**PASS:** An acronym that describes the main steps in fire extinguisher operation:

*Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.*

**Portable Fire Extinguisher:** A unit designed for fire extinguishment, that contains a fire extinguishing agent, expelled by pressure or a manual pump, and that is capable of being carried by hand. (Note: Class D agent can be stored and applied with a scoop or shovel and can be stored in a container other than an extinguisher.)

**Underwriters Laboratories, UL,** a testing and certification laboratory.

**Procedure** Fire extinguisher selection will be selected based upon the hazard(s) present in the area and the expected types of fires that could result. Both the type and capacity of the fire extinguisher will be determined by the potential hazard. All fire extinguishers provided in our facility will be UL approved.



Properly mounting [fire extinguishers](#) plays a vital role in ensuring prompt access, a necessity during emergencies. [Extinguishers](#) must adhere to specified height limits to maximize accessibility. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) suggests mounting fire extinguishers between 3.5 to 5 feet from the floor.

The bottom of the fire extinguisher must be at least 4 inches above the ground. The top of the fire extinguisher should not exceed 5 feet from the floor.

Placement of fire extinguishers will conform with the following guidelines:

1. Travel Distance: Fire Hazard Class Travel Distance Class A = 75 feet or less Class B = 50 feet or less. Class C, based on Class A and B extinguisher placement, but close to the hazard. Class D= 75 feet or less.
2. Hazard: High hazard areas will have a fire extinguisher placed closer than the maximum travel distances.
3. Ease of access: Areas that are difficult to access will have a fire extinguisher placed closer so that response to a fire will not be delayed.
4. Permanent location: All fire extinguishers in our facility will have a permanent location consisting of a wall mount, a fire extinguisher cabinet, or a vehicle bracket to assure access.

Placement of Remote job sites should be in High hazard areas and placed closer than the maximum travel distances.

5. Damage: Extinguishers will be located to minimize the possibility of damage and being obstructed by traffic or work activities in the area.
6. Marking: All fire extinguisher locations will be conspicuously marked with signs or other indicators.

## Care and Maintenance

1. Fire extinguishers will be kept unobstructed and in clear view at all times.
2. Fire extinguishers will be inspected on a monthly schedule by trained facility personnel and a written record of the inspection will be maintained on a card affixed to the extinguisher. The inspection will include: – Verify that the extinguisher is in the proper location – Physical condition – Pressure gage within operable range (if so equipped) – Nozzle is unobstructed – Lift the extinguisher to verify it is not too light (indicating a loss of contents)
3. An annual inspection will be performed by a certified fire extinguisher contractor and records of service will be maintained.
4. After any fire extinguisher is used, the unit will be removed from service until it is inspected and recharged by the contractor.
5. If a fire extinguisher is damaged, involved in an incident where damage could result, or if the extinguisher shows signs of corrosion, it will be removed from service until it is inspected and recharged by the contractor.
6. All fire extinguishers will be labeled with the class of fire(s) that they are designed to fight and with the operating instructions.



7. All stored pressure dry chemical extinguishers that require a 12-year hydrostatic test are emptied and subjected to applicable maintenance procedures every 6 years.

8. All portable extinguishers shall be hydrostatically tested at the intervals listed in the following table:

Type of Extinguisher	Test Interval (Years)
Soda acid (stainless steel shell)	5
Cartridge operated water and/or antifreeze	5
Stored pressure water and/or antifreeze	5
Dry chemical with stainless steel	5
Dry chemical, stored pressure, with mild steel, brazed brass or aluminum shells	12
Halon 1211 and Halon 1301	12
Aqueous Film Forming foam (AFFF)	5
Dry powder, cartridge or cylinder operated with mild steel shells	12
Carbon dioxide	5

## Fire Extinguisher Use

1. No employee is required to use a fire extinguisher. Operation of a fire extinguisher is a voluntary action.
2. Only trained personnel are authorized to use a portable fire extinguisher.
3. Fire extinguishers will only be used on incipient stage fires.
4. The steps in fire extinguisher use are: – Alert employees at immediate risk from the fire – Activate the facility fire alarm – Use the PASS acronym for operation – All fire extinguisher use will be reported to the program administrator
5. Operational safety rules for fire extinguisher use are: – Fight only incipient stage fires – Use a fire extinguisher that is approved for the class of fire – Always keep an exit path open behind you – Stay low to avoid heat and smoke – Do not turn your back on a fire, even after extinguishment – Avoid breathing smoke-ventilate the area after extinguishment



## Training

1. Only trained and authorized employees are allowed to use fire extinguishers in our facility.
2. Training will be conducted at the time that the employee is authorized to use fire extinguishers and familiar with the hazards involved with incipient stage firefighting. Such training will be during their orientation. Refresher training must be repeated annually for all authorized personnel.
3. Employees who are not authorized to use fire extinguishers will be advised that their only duties in a fire are: notification and evacuation.
4. Training will consist of classroom training supplemented by hands on training where necessary to familiarize employees with the general principles of fire extinguisher use and the hazards associated with basic fire fighting. In all cases, employee safety will be stressed over property conservation.

