Toolbox Talks – Fire Extinguishers

Have you inspected your fire extinguishers lately? Are they fully charged, strategically located, accessible and ready for use? Or, are they laden with dust, obscurely hidden in some corner, affording you a false sense of security?

So often fire extinguishers are purchased with enthusiasm, and then suddenly, because they are not regularly used, they are relegated to a secondary position in our operation.

The fact that fire extinguishers are our first line of defense in the event of fire should warrant a periodic and thorough inspection of them. Fire extinguishers must be kept clean to attract attention. They must be kept accessible to eliminate lost time when needed, and the rubber hose, horn or other dispensing component must be checked to guard against blockage.

The following is a brief resume classifying the major types of fires and detailing what fire extinguisher should be used to control them:

**Class “A” Fires:** Ordinary combustibles such as rubbish, paper, rags, scrap lumber, etc. These are fires that require a cooling agent for extinguishing. Recommended extinguishers are: water through use of hose, pump type water cans, pressurized extinguishers.

**Class “B” Fires:** Flammable liquids, oils, and grease. Fires that require a smothering effect for extinguishing. Recommended extinguishers: Carbon Dioxide, Chemical, and Foam.

**Class “C” Fires:** Electrical equipment. Fires that require a non-conducting extinguishing agent. Recommended extinguishers: Carbon Dioxide and Dry Chemical.
Our safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are made solely to assist your organization in reducing hazards and the potential of hazards and accidents. These recommendations were developed from conditions observed and information provided at the time of our visit. They do not attempt to identify every possible loss potential, hazard or risk, nor do they guarantee that workplace accidents will be prevented. These safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are not a substitute for ongoing, well-researched internal safety and risk management programs. This report does not warrant that the property inspected and its operations are compliant with any law, rule or regulation.

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