**Fire Extinguishers**

The Farm Sustainability Assessment (<http://fsatool.com/>), and Part 4 of the OHS General Regulations outlines the requirement for emergency and incident procedures which would include developing your own emergency response plans to include the emergency response equipment that may be required for each emergency response plan.

Consider firefighting equipment such as the fire extinguisher.

Do you have the correct class and size of fire extinguisher for the building, work area, equipment, or machine?

The correct class of fire extinguisher for the building or equipment may fall in one of the following categories:

* Type A – Ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, and trash;
* Type B – Flammable Liquids such as gas or grease;
* Type C – Electrical Equipment
* Type ABC for all of the three listed above.

The correct size of fire extinguisher for the building, equipment, or machine to consider is the size of the area and where fires are most likely to start. For example, for a large room, a 10-pound fire extinguisher may be best or for a small room, a 5-pound fire extinguisher may be best. Inspect the fire extinguisher every 30 days and mark it on the tag. Service the fire extinguisher once per year and keep the receipt for your records.

When you notice a fire, tell the other workers to leave the area using the farms emergency procedures.  Call 911, or have another worker call for help. Fires double in size every 60 seconds, so act fast!

If you are trained and authorized to extinguish a fire, the fire appears small, and there’s an extinguisher nearby that you feel is safe to use, quickly consider 3 P’s before using it:

* **Path:** Is there a safe exit without passing through any fire, smoke, or heat?
* **Proper:** Do you have the right fire extinguisher for the type of fire?
* **Pressure:** Is the pressure reading in the green?

If all 3 P’s are answered with a yes, and you feel safe; go ahead and use the fire extinguisher.

To use a fire Extinguisher, follow **“P. A. S. S.”**

**Pull** the pin:

Pull the pin breaking the seal.

**Aim** the nozzle:

Aim the nozzle, at the base of the fire.

**Squeeze** the handle:

Squeeze and hold the handle.

**Sweep** from side to side:

Sweep from side to side to cover the fire.

Keep in mind depending on the size of the fire extinguisher, you may have only 5-10 seconds to extinguish the fire before it runs out.

**If conditions change, leave immediately!!!**

For further information consider the following resources:

1. National Fire Protection Code (NFPA) 10 – Portable Fire Extinguishers.
2. Part 4, Section 25 – Fire Protection & Escape of the Occupational Health and Safety General Regulations.
3. Fire Safety Act and Fire Safety Regulation

**Fire Extinguishers – DISCUSSION RECORD**

**Agenda:**

* Discuss fire hazards on the farm.
* Discuss types of fire extinguishers available for use.
* Provide training to workers with rescue and evacuation duties.
* Check to see if Fire Extinguishers meet NFPA 10 code. Have they been inspected monthly and serviced yearly and documented on the tag?

Comments or safety concerns as a result of the discussion or observed since the last rally?

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Follow-up to concerns raised at previous rally?
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Action Items?
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Near Miss/Incidents/Unsafe Acts/Conditions to Report?

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Topics recommended for future Rallies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank the rally members for their participation.**

**Quiz Answers:** 1. False, 2. False, 3. B, 4.C

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. Aim at the smoke above the fire.  True or False

2. If a fire breaks out in a storage room, shut the door while you’re inside the room trying to put the fire out, to keep the fire contained. True or False

3. Depending on the size and type of extinguisher, how much time do you have to try and put a fire out:

1. 1-5 seconds
2. 5-10 seconds
3. 10-20 seconds
4. 25-30 seconds

4. Never allow yourself to be trapped in a room with only one exit. Always leave yourself with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. A back-up extinguisher
2. Your back against the wall
3. An escape route

**What would you do?**

A fire has broken out in the barn. Workers evacuated and the firefighters have arrived. One worker is missing at the muster point. What would you do?

**Attendance RECORD**

\*This is to acknowledge that I understand and agree to actively participate in the safety meeting.

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