Jobsite: _____   Date: _____

Foreman: _____   G.C. _____

	Fire Extinguishers	Instructor Tips

SMOHIT Safety Sense

Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Fire Extinguishers

- If an unexpected fire ignites at work, are you prepared to respond to extinguishing it? Do you know what types of extinguishers are available at your jobsite and how to use them?

- Fire extinguishers are your first line of defense in the event of a fire. You must make sure that they are regularly and thoroughly inspected. It is also important that you know the class of fire involved and the correct type of extinguisher to use:

- Class A - involves ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, cloth, rubbish or plastics. These fires require a cooling agent or an extinguishing agent such as water or a dry chemical. Do not use carbon dioxide extinguishers or an extinguisher that contains sodium or potassium bicarbonate.

- Class B - involves flammable liquids, grease or gases. These are fires that need to be smothered, or "snuffed out." Common extinguishing agents are foam, carbon dioxide or a dry chemical.

- Class C - involves live electrical equipment. These fires require a non-conductive extinguishing agent, such as carbon dioxide or a dry chemical. Do not use foam or water extinguishers on this type of fire.

- Class D - involves combustible metals like magnesium, titanium or sodium. These fires require special extinguishing agents that are approved by recognized testing laboratories.

- When using extinguishers, remember P-A-S-S:

  - **P** - Pull the pin before using the fire extinguisher

  - **A** - Aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire, not the flames.

  - **S** - Squeeze the lever of the extinguisher to operate and discharge.

  - **S** - Sweep the extinguisher back and forth at the base of the fire.

- Remember to activate the fire alarm to alert others that there is a fire.

Instructor Tips

- **Point out where different types of fires may start around the work place.**

- **Demonstrate the P-A-S-S method of using fire extinguishers.**

- **Review the limitations of fire extinguishers and what to do if the extinguisher is ineffective in putting out the fire.**

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OSHA Regulations: 1910.157