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TOOL BOX TALK
Fire Extinguisher Use & Inspection
June 26, 2023

It is important to understand how to use a fire extinguisher and the limitations they have. **Gray & Son** recently had a small fire on a jobsite because of the dry weather conditions. The easiest way to remember how to use a fire extinguisher is to follow the P.A.S.S. method. The **PASS** acronym was developed to allow people to remember the basic four steps to properly using a fire extinguisher.

P- Pull. Pull the pin.

A- Aim.

S- Squeeze. Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

S- Sweep. Sweep the nozzle side to side at the base of the fire.

Fire Extinguisher Limitations:

A dry chemical fire extinguisher such as the common red “ABC” extinguishers will reach a distance between 5 and 20 feet. It is important to be familiar with the models used in your work areas and the effective distance they can be used for.

A 10lb to 20lb dry chemical fire extinguisher will last anywhere from 10 to 25 seconds. Fire extinguishers are only designed to fight small fires. A rule of thumb a lot of professional’s use is the size of the fire should not be any larger than the size of a trash can.

Fire Extinguisher Inspection Tips:

Extinguishers should be periodically checked every 30 days. There should be a formal check of all fire extinguishers onsite annually. These inspections should be documented. This is a **GRAY & SON** company policy.

Ensure the pressure is okay when inspecting a fire extinguisher. The arrow on the gauge should be in the green portion of the gauge. If the arrow is in the red portion, the fire extinguisher needs to be tagged out of service. Replacements are inside the rear door of the Texas Shop.

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Check to make sure the pin is in place. Make sure the end on the spray hose is not clogged. Pick up the extinguisher to see if it is full.

Make sure the extinguisher is secured in your truck and located near the label on the outside of the truck. Look for rust on the container and ensure that the label is in good readable condition. Do not hesitate to call 911. Equipment and truck fires can take off quickly.

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	EMPLOYEE #