



FIRE EXTINGUISHER LESSON PLAN

The lessons taught in a classroom often reach well beyond the surrounding walls. Help your students stay safe at home by teaching them about fire safety and prevention. This fire extinguisher facts lesson and the corresponding activities will help teach your students the importance of knowing what to do if there is a fire. Remember...knowledge is the most precious gift we can give our students.

Objectives

- Understand the importance of fire safety
- Know how to select the appropriate type of fire extinguisher
- Know how to use a fire extinguisher

Needed materials

- Fire Extinguisher Facts (from FireFYI.org)
- Small fire extinguishers with different classifications.
- Safety goggles and gloves

LESSON PLAN

Introduction

Fire extinguishers are only one element of a complete fire survival plan. Only use your extinguisher after making sure:

- All residents of the home have been evacuated to safety
- The fire department has been notified
- There is a clear exit behind the person using the extinguisher
- Use your extinguisher only to keep a small self-contained fire from growing, only when the room is not filled with smoke, or to create a safe pathway out of the home. Read the instructions and become familiar with your fire extinguisher's parts and operation BEFORE a fire breaks out.

Discussion Points

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle. There are three general classes of residential fire extinguishers from which to choose:

- Class A: For fires involving ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber and plastics.
- Class B: For fires involving flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, solvents and oil-based paint.
- Class C: For fires involving energized electrical equipment such as wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery and appliances.

Instructors Note

Show students samples of the different types of extinguisher classifications. For general living areas, choose a fire extinguisher rated A-B-C. For kitchens, garages and vehicles, choose an extinguisher rated B-C.

Fire Extinguisher Tips

- When choosing a fire extinguisher, bigger is always better. Larger fire extinguishers last longer, giving you more time to fight the fire and get to safety.
- Select an extinguisher with an easy-to-read pressure gauge and clear instructions.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory, such as UL.
- Install a fire extinguisher within reach on every level of your home, close to exits, and in the kitchen and garage. Include all locations where there is potential for accidental fire.

Independent Learning

Remember the PASS Word. Stand 6 to 8 feet away from the fire and follow the four-step PASS procedure recommended by National Fire Protection Association:

- P – Pull the pin and hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you.
- A – Aim low at the base of the fire.
- S – Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly to discharge the extinguishing agent. (When the agent first hits the fire, the fire may briefly flare up. This should be expected.)
- S – Sweep the nozzle from side to side, moving carefully toward the fire. Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire.

Instructor's Note

The instructor should show students how to complete the PASS method before allowing students to practice. Be sure to use an appropriate training area with plenty of space. Children under the age of 12 should not participate in practices or be in/near practice areas.

Additional Activities

Visit www.FireFYI.org or www.kidde.com for more fire safety information.