



Toolbox Talk: Fire Extinguisher Safety

Project Type: Interior Renovation

Topic: Fire Extinguisher Safety

Purpose: Ensure all workers understand proper fire extinguisher use, limitations, and emergency response procedures on NYC interior renovation projects.

Why This Matters

Fires on interior renovation sites can spread rapidly due to combustible materials, temporary electrical work, and hot work activities. Knowing when and how to use a fire extinguisher can prevent small incidents from becoming major emergencies. Improper use, however, can place workers at serious risk.

Fire Extinguisher Basics

- Fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and unobstructed at all times
- Only use an extinguisher on small, contained fires
- Always maintain a clear exit path behind you
- If the fire grows or smoke increases, evacuate immediately
- Call 911 and notify supervision right away

Types of Fire Extinguishers (Common on Site)

- Class A: Ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, debris)
- Class B: Flammable liquids (paint, solvents, fuels)
- Class C: Electrical fires (temporary wiring, tools)
- ABC extinguishers are most commonly used on renovation sites

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher (PASS Method)

- P: Pull the pin
- A: Aim at the base of the fire
- S: Squeeze the handle
- S: Sweep side to side

Prohibited Practices

- Using a fire extinguisher without proper training
- Fighting fires that are spreading or producing heavy smoke
- Blocking or removing fire extinguishers from designated locations
- Using expired, damaged, or uninspected extinguishers

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Ensure fire extinguishers are properly placed and inspected
- Verify extinguishers are appropriate for site conditions
- Remove damaged or discharged extinguishers immediately
- Train workers on emergency response and evacuation procedures

