

Safety Minute



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FIRE EXTINGUISHERS and SMOKE DETECTORS

- ▶ There are four classes of fire extinguishers - A, B, C and D - and each class can put out a different type of fire.
- ▶ Class A extinguishers will put out fires in ordinary combustibles such as wood and paper
- ▶ Class B extinguishers are for use on flammable liquids like grease, gasoline and oil
- ▶ Class C extinguishers are suitable for use only on electrically energized fires
- ▶ Class D extinguishers are designed for use on flammable metals
- ▶ Multipurpose extinguishers can be used on different types of fires and will be labeled with more than one class, like A-B, B-C or A-B-C.
- ▶ For household use and to keep in vehicle a ABC type extinguisher would be best.
- ▶ Two ABC Fire extinguishers from Amazon cost \$24 one for the house one for the car.

- ▶ There are three types of smoke detectors on the market: ionization, photoelectric, and dual-sensor alarms, which use both ionization and photoelectric technology.
- ▶ Disposal of Photoelectric detectors remove battery throw in trash.
- ▶ Disposal of ionization detectors: Return to manufacturer they contain a radioactive compound Americium 241. The manufacturer is required to take them back.
- ▶ Old detectors may not have a manufacturer name you have heard of. A lot of manufactures were merged and are owned by a few companies. Just go online to determine where to send.
- ▶ You have to pay for shipping, the post office has a shipping procedure on their website.
- ▶ Smoke detectors should be replaced every ten years the ionization detectors are only good for ten years.
- ▶ The date of manufacture can be found on the inside of the detector.
- ▶ A dual smoke carbon dioxide detector is \$17.95 at Amazon.
- ▶ Smoke detectors are \$4.44 at Amazon.