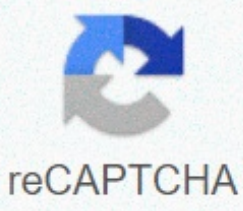




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Types of fire and fire extinguisher pdf

A fire extinguisher is an absolute necessity in any home or office. While there's a good chance that the extinguisher will sit on the wall for years, collecting dust, it could end up saving your property and even your life.In this article, we'll see exactly what fire extinguishers do and how they do it. We'll also find out what causes fire in the first place, learn the correct way to use an extinguisher and see what sort of fire suppressant works best on different types of fires.Fire is the result of a chemical combustion reaction, typically a reaction between oxygen in the atmosphere and some sort of fuel (wood or gasoline, for example). Of course, wood and gasoline don't spontaneously catch on fire just because they're surrounded by oxygen. For the combustion reaction to take place, the fuel has to be heated to its ignition temperature.Fire is the result of a chemical combustion reaction, typically a reaction between oxygen in the atmosphere and some sort of fuel (wood or gasoline, for example). Of course, wood and gasoline don't spontaneously catch on fire just because they're surrounded by oxygen. For the combustion reaction to take place, the fuel has to be heated to its ignition temperature.Here's the sequence of events in a typical wood fire:Something heats the wood to very high temperatures. This could be any number of things -- focused light, friction, something else that is already burning.When the wood reaches about 500 degrees Fahrenheit (260 degrees Celsius), the heat decomposes some of the cellulose material that makes up the wood.Decomposed material is released as volatile gases, typically a compound of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen.When the gas is hot enough, the compound molecules break apart, and the atoms recombine with the oxygen to form water, carbon dioxide and other products.The gases, which rise through the air, make up the flame. Carbon atoms rising in the flame emit light as they heat up. (Check out How Light Bulbs Work to find out why heated objects emit light.)The heat of the flame keeps the fuel at the ignition temperature, so it continues to burn as long as there is fuel and oxygen.As you can see, there are three essential elements involved in this process:Extreme heatOxygen (or similar gas)FuelFire extinguishers are designed to remove at least one of these elements so that a fire will die out. There are several different ways of doing this, as we'll see in the next section. Skip to main contentFamily HandymanCommon sense dictates that you keep fire extinguishers wherever there's a potential for an accidental fire, such as in kitchens and garages. But some fire experts also recommend keeping them in places like laundry rooms and workshops and at the tops of basement stairwells.Fire extinguishers should never be more than 75 ft. away from a Class A (ordinary combustibles) hazard, and no more than 50 ft. from a Class B (flammable liquids) hazard. When you mount a fire extinguisher to a wall, keep it high enough so kids can't reach it, near an exit, and away from any kind of heat source. Also place the extinguisher a safe distance from items and areas with the highest risk for fire so you can get to it when you need it most.12 Fire Safety Tips You Need to KnowNext, check out the 10 things you should never burn in your fireplace.granata68/Shutterstock Burning high moisture-content wood in your fireplace produces more smoke than seasoned wood. This, in turn, can cause dangerous creosote to build up on the walls of your chimney. Burn only dry wood. Learn how often you should remove creosote in your chimney. ImageJoy/shutterstock It may be tempting to throw dried up plants in the fireplace: They are kind of like firewood, right? Well, the smoke from some plants, such as poison ivy, poison sumac and poison oak can cause an allergic reaction when burned and inhaled. Leave all plant matter outside. These 12 invasive plants may be dangerous.Nito100/Getty Images Because burning painted and treated wood can release dangerous, toxic chemicals into your home, keep them out of your fireplace. Not only can these chemicals irritate lungs, eyes and skin, but they can damage the inside of your fireplace. Try these foolproof ways to start a cozy fire.ImagePixel/Shutterstock It seems logical that you could get rid of your old Christmas tree in the fireplace, but it's best to dispose of it by other means. Not only is the wood not properly seasoned, evergreen trees often contain high levels of quick-burning resin which can reach high temperatures and result in a chimney fire or even crack your chimney. Here's how to avoid those pesky Christmas tree bugs.Teerasak Ladnongkhun/Shutterstock It doesn't matter what type of plastic you have—plastic bags, bubble wrap, plastic bottles or cartons—never throw it in the fireplace. When burned, plastic releases harmful chemicals that can be dangerous for your health. Get your wood-burning fireplace ready for winter with these 13 must-do steps.Balefire/Shutterstock It may be tempting to toss old papers, wrapping paper or that cardboard pizza box in the fireplace, but you should dispose of paper and cardboard with colored print another way. The brightly colored inks may release toxic gasses when burned. Have a non-functioning fireplace? Check out these 12 clever ideas for how to use the space.Wealthylady/Shutterstock While you may use charcoal products in your barbecue grill, keep them outdoors. When you burn charcoal, it releases carbon monoxide into the air, and that's the last thing you want inside your home. When should you replace a carbon monoxide detector? Follow this guide.Phil McDonald/Shutterstock While dryer lint may work as a great fire starter when you're on a camping trip, keep it out of your fireplace. The synthetic fibers in dryer lint can release dangerous chemical fumes into your home and chimney.Choose a healthier way to ignite your fire. Clean lint from your dryer with these quick tips.Anna Malygina/Shutterstock That large piece of driftwood you found on the coast may seem like a good choice for firewood, but it can potentially release salt and thus corrode your fireplace and chimney. Leave driftwood to its best use: a decoration. When buying firewood for the season, follow these helpful tips. k_samurkas/Shutterstock Never use fire accelerants such as gasoline, grill starter fluid or kerosene to start a fire. These highly flammable liquids can cause a fire that quickly becomes too hot for your fireplace and chimney, putting the integrity of your chimney and your home at risk. It's best to keep these accelerants out of your home. Prevent home fires with these tips. Originally Published: February 07, 2019 Complete DIY projects like a pro! Sign up for our newsletter! Photo: istockphoto.comQ: I just moved into an apartment that has a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, but I'm not sure if it still works. So I'm wondering: How long do fire extinguishers last? How can I tell if mine is still good?A: You're wise to put your safety first and ask these questions because the answers can mean the difference between successfully responding to an emergency and being caught empty-handed. Fire extinguishers last between five and 15 years but they all ultimately expire and become ineffective, no matter what fire-fighting substance they contain. Household fire extinguishers—which are typically filled with dry chemicals (carbon dioxide or halon)—lose their charge over time. Those with compressed gas can leak contents slowly as their seals weaken, while those with ammonium phosphate will solidify over the years, rendering the entire device unusable.The good news is that some units can be professionally recharged, whether they're nearing or, in some cases, passed the expiration of their original charge. Read on to get a handle on the age and effectiveness of your fire extinguisher, plus tips on how to extend its life, get it serviced, and dispose of it correctly if necessary.Photo: homedepot.comCheck for an expiration date. Look for a paper tag on the fire extinguisher showing a record of maintenance. It may not connote an expiration date, but if the oldest date on the tag was more than 10 years ago, your extinguisher's days are likely numbered—it may already have lost its ability to fight flames.RELATED: Which Expiration Dates REALLY Matter?Next, inspect the pressure gauge at the top. If the needle is within the green area, your extinguisher should be in working order. If so, set up a monthly reminder on your calendar or your phone to continue checking the gauge. A needle in the red or white area indicates that it requires service.If the extinguisher has no gauge, it's probably an older model, which means it would be wise to take it to a professional for testing and, if necessary (and possible), recharging.Bring the unit to a fire extinguisher expert for a professional determination to see if it can be recharged. To find a local pro, search online for "fire extinguisher specialist" and include the name of your city and state. A professional recharge typically runs between \$15 and \$20, a bargain compared to a new extinguisher, which will likely cost \$100 to \$200.RELATED: 10 Things Your Local Fire Department Wishes You KnewStore a fire extinguisher in a clean, indoor location can help extend its life. Exposure to sun, UV radiation, wind, or rain can cause corrosion, rust, and deterioration. Excessively dusty or dirty environments can hamper the device's ability to function properly.Know the warning signs. There are several telltale clues that your extinguisher won't work no matter what its age—and that, in fact, it poses a hazard all its own. If the canister is dented or bruised, or if the tamper seal and pin are missing, there's a possibility that it might explode unprompted. Examine the entire unit and if it's not in good shape, properly dispose of it without delay.RELATED: 14 Bad Habits That Could Burn Down Your HousePhoto: istockphoto.comIf your fire extinguisher is indeed expired or damaged beyond repair, dispose of it properly. Take it to your local hazardous waste collection site (find one locally with an online search) or local fire department (call first to ensure that the station accepts expired extinguisher drop-offs). Never throw a fire extinguisher into the trash or recycling bin, because it still has hazardous, pressurized chemicals inside that can contaminate the earth or even explode. Depending on where you live, improper fire extinguisher disposal may also be subject to a fine. Skip to main contentFamily HandymanCommon sense dictates that you keep fire extinguishers wherever there's a potential for an accidental fire, such as in kitchens and garages. But some fire experts also recommend keeping them in places like laundry rooms and workshops and at the tops of basement stairwells.Fire extinguishers should never be more than 75 ft. away from a Class A (ordinary combustibles) hazard, and no more than 50 ft. from a Class B (flammable liquids) hazard. When you mount a fire extinguisher to a wall, keep it high enough so kids can't reach it, near an exit, and away from any kind of heat source. 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Recalling those now famous words that Donald Trump utters at the end of each episode of the Apprentice, I allowed myself to give into my voyeuristic impulses. I also remembered a story about a mentor of mine. Albert Dorskind, former key executive at MCA/Universal during the tenure of Lew Wasserman. Creator of Universal's Studio Tour — which has mushroomed into their Citywalk — said that one of the first things he did when MCA purchased Universal Studios was to say, "You're fired," to everyone who worked there.Prior to MCA's purchase, Universal Studios had been in the motion picture business, where deadlines were not as critical — much less as frequent and tight — as they were in the television business. It became quickly apparent to Dorskind that the movie making culture was not "getting" the different requirements to compete in the television industry. There needed to be a sea change.After the firing, he then asked the former employees to reapply for their jobs. There was no prejudice taken towards anyone, since they were all in the same boat. This also gave management the opportunity to hire the wheat and leave the chaff behind. Some of the people made this easier by not reapplying because they knew inside themselves that they were not able to perform.In today's litigious climate with wrongful termination, workman's comp suits, and other legal entanglements waiting in the wings to stall a company if not bring it to its knees, such actions could not be taken. However, the process could be used during performance reviews by thinking about whether you would rehire individuals — were you to fire them.Such thinking will enable the performance reviewer to answer several important questions: Would you rehire this person? If so why? If not, why not? If you were to rehire them, in what capacity could they best serve your company? Knowing what you know about them now, what would you say their greatest strengths are? Their greatest weaknesses? How could you help them redesign their job to maximize their strengths? (Read Marcus Buckingham's book Now, Discover Your Strengths, to understand the thinking behind this.) Why go through this process? Wearing my other hat as a clinical psychiatrist, I remember a wise professor telling us that the time you know a long-term psychotherapy patient most objectively is the first time and the last time you see them. All the time in between, you are too subjectively involved. A similar thing can be said of employees. Your best chance for objectivity with them occurs when you hire them and when they leave. One psychological explanation for this is that objectivity requires a great deal of energy, and the vigilance required to continue it can be exhausting.One of the pushes toward tangible, measurable results is to be able to maintain objectivity without having to experience the stress of confronting individuals on their performance. Let the results speak for themselves. Here, too, there is a parallel in medicine in the trend toward evidence-based medicine, in which medical decisions are based more on the results of double-blind experiments rather than the physician's intuition. Although both are ideas whose times have come, they are facing resistance from the old guard and will probably only come into being when the next generation of workers and physicians, trained in these objective approaches, gradually fill the openings left when their older colleagues retire.A tool I have developed that further helps leaders evaluate people for a performance review — and lessen the stress of doing one — is what I call the Self-Other Inventory. It helps make explicit the realistic expectations you have about your people. Don't confuse reasonable with realistic expectations. Reasonable makes sense; realistic is what is likely to happen. It's reasonable to expect your employees to learn your new platform; it's unrealistic to expect it of people who are nearly phobic about technical details.More importantly, this vehicle becomes a way to discuss an employee's performance and areas for improvement with them. You can use it with your employees and then discuss how you came to your observations; then ask them how they might see things differently. It also logically leads to areas they need to improve on (and areas you need to improve if you want to be more effective with them), as well as explanations in the event you need to terminate them. Below, the top row of the tool has been filled out as an example. (The criteria along the left side can be modified to whatever is pertinent to your company.) SELF-OTHER INVENTORY What I can rely on other for What I can't rely on other for What other can rely on me for What other can't rely on me for Competence To do their job without making significant errors. To get all the details correct. To tolerate it as long as it doesn't adversely affect end result and/or the work of other people. To tolerate it, if it does begin to adversely impact the end result or someone else's work. Accountability Initiative Self-Reliance Team Playing Integrity Attitude Loyalty Usable Insight: If you want to give your competition another way to beat you, hold on to people you should get rid of.

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