

WELDING DISTRIBUTORPRO—SAFETY BULLETIN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY BULLETIN “PULL THE PIN” TRAINING

You have fire extinguishers strategically placed throughout your facility, but does everyone know HOW to use them? A small fire can be extinguished quickly if a fire extinguisher is used properly, but it can also escalate quickly if no one knows how to properly operate the extinguisher.



LEARNING FROM LOSSES

Tom Elliott, President, A-OX Welding Supply Co., shares his personal experience in the workplace:

“Sadly, we had an incident where an employee was unable to extinguish what started as a small fire and quickly escalated out of control. We believe an important factor that may have helped in this situation is practice using the fire extinguisher. This is also a great opportunity to communicate with the local fire team about what you do at your company and the potential hazards.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Actually pulling the pin helps create muscle memory that may be relied on in a difficult situation.
- Check your fire extinguisher’s gauge monthly to verify that your extinguisher is still charged. If the extinguisher’s gauge needle is in the Recharge area, have your fire extinguisher recharged immediately.
- Fire extinguishers should be inspected and tagged annually.
- Remember these helpful acronyms:

<p>In Case of Fire: Rescue Alarm Confine Extinguish / Evacuate</p> 	<p>To use Fire Extinguisher: Pull Pin Aim Hose Squeeze Handle Sweep From Side to Side</p> 
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Consult your local fire department today about setting up a live demonstration on the use of fire extinguishers. They are generally very receptive to training. Please note, certain state jurisdictions have laws & regulations around controlled fires and require pre-approved permits. Discuss with your local fire department.