

# Fire Safety



## Fire Extinguishers

**Placement of Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers (multi-purpose ABC types) should be kept at readily available locations near potential fire sources (furnaces and stoves) and also near employee work areas.

There should be a minimum of one fire extinguisher on each level of the building with no more than 25 feet between extinguishers.

**Operation of Fire Extinguishers:** Contents will empty fast so proper use is essential. Stand 6-8 feet from the fire. Aim at the base of the fire and sweep from side to side.

**Fire Extinguisher Classifications:** It is critical that the proper extinguisher be used. Not only might the fire not be extinguished, the flames could increase!

**A:** Ordinary combustibles--wood, paper, trash.

**B:** Greases, oils, gasoline, paint, etc.

**C:** Electrical wiring, plugs, equipment, etc.

## Commercial Sprinkler Systems:

Did you know that nationwide, more than 4,000 people die in fires each year? This is one reason sprinkler systems are recommended for all commercial structures--for employee safety. They may seem expensive--but when you consider insurance costs and saving lives, sprinklers are very cost-effective. When installed in new construction they often add only 1-1.5% of the total building cost--about the same as upgrading carpet. But, carpets need to be replaced every 10 years, while fire sprinklers last for the life of the building. Water is piped into your business minimally for toilets and sinks. Fire sprinklers use this same water to extinguish fires.

A fire sprinkler system can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive at the scene. They are instant firefighters--ready to stop a fire the minute it breaks out. The latest sprinklers are small, inconspicuous and can be flush with walls and ceilings.

You don't have to be concerned about sprinklers leaking. Sprinklers and their piping are pressure tested at two to three times' higher pressure than your plumbing system. The odds of sprinklers leaking due to manufacturing defects are 1 in 16 million. And, like your plumbing pipes, sprinkler piping is not exposed to cold areas so they are protected from freezing. Sprinklers do not leak because they remain closed until needed.