

## Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

### **Fire extinguishers**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Oh, no! A fire just broke out in your work area, and everyone is panicked. You know a fire extinguisher is nearby. Should you use it to douse the flames?

#### **What to focus on**

Here are three things to keep in mind when using a fire extinguisher.

##### **1. Confirm safe conditions.**

Before using the fire extinguisher, confirm that the fire department has been called, coworkers are aware of the situation, people are leaving the building, the fire is small and not spreading, and the flames won't block your escape route.

**2. Select the right extinguisher.** Not all extinguishers are suitable for all fires. For instance, Class A extinguishers are intended for fires involving ordinary combustible materials like cardboard, wood and paper. Class B units are best for fires involving combustible liquids like gasoline, diesel fuel and oil-based products.

Important: If you're not sure whether you have the right extinguisher, don't attempt to douse the flames.

**3. Follow safety procedures while battling the flames.** Don't get too close to the fire when using the extinguisher. Sweep the nozzle from side to side until the fire is out. And never turn your back to the flames.