



Fire Emergency Plan: Fight or Flee?

The most common emergency businesses must plan for is a fire. A well-trained employee can often put out a small fire, but the employee must have a comprehensive understanding of proper fire extinguisher use and its limitations.

When evacuation plans include fire fighting tactics, they not only increase the level of training required, but also the intricacy of the plan. Below are options and requirements to help decide on the best plan for your facility.

Fire Emergency Options	Requirements *sourced from OSHA
1. No authorization for anyone to use portable fire extinguishers and all employees evacuate immediately when alarm sounds	Establish an emergency action plan, fire prevention plan and train employees accordingly. Extinguishers are not available in workplace. [29 CFR 1910.157(b)(1)]
2. Specified employees are trained and authorized to handle portable fire extinguishers. Evacuation must occur immediately when alarm sounds for all other employees	Establish an emergency action plan and train employees accordingly. Meet all general fire extinguisher requirements plus annually train designated employees to use fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers in the workplace must be inspected, tested, and maintained. [29 CFR 1910.157(b)(2)]
3. Every employee is authorized to handle portable fire extinguishers in the event of a fire	For evacuating employees, establish an emergency action plan and train employees accordingly. Meet all general fire extinguisher requirements plus annually train all employees to use fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers in the workplace must be inspected, tested, and maintained. [29 CFR 1910.157(b)(2)]
4. Portable fire extinguishers are on-site, but not intended for use by employees	Establish an emergency action plan, fire prevention plan and train employees accordingly. If fire extinguishers are left in the workplace, they must be inspected, tested, and maintained. Extinguishers are provided but not intended for employee use. [29 CFR 1910.157(a)]

For specific OSHA regulation information, [click here](#).

To see our selection of fire extinguishers, [click here](#).

Call our solutions experts 800-442-3633

emedco[™]