

## Fire Extinguishers – Placement & Use

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require that each power unit be equipped with either:

- One (1) fire extinguisher that has an Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) rating of 5 B:C
- Or two (2) fire extinguishers with a UL rating of 4 B:C

NOTE: power units that are used to transport hazardous materials in a quantity that requires placarding must have a fire extinguisher with a UL rating of 10 B:C or more.

Each fire extinguisher should be filled and properly labeled with its UL rating, then *securely* mounted in a location that is readily accessible for use. Proper mounting should prevent sliding, rolling and vertical movement relative to the vehicle and should permit easy determination of whether it is fully charged.

In the event of a fire, determine if it can be suppressed with the use of the fire extinguisher available to you. If the fire is spreading quickly or places you or others in danger, do not attempt to put it out yourself. If deemed manageable, remove the fire extinguisher from its mount and stand several feet away from the fire. If possible, stand upwind to prevent exposure to smoke and heat and avoid standing near areas of flammable, unburned materials.

To operate the fire extinguisher:

- Hold the extinguisher upright, twist and pull the pin, breaking the seal.
- Aim the hose at the base of the fire – NOT THE FLAMES.
- Squeeze the handle slowly, releasing the extinguishing agent. Note that if the handle is released, the discharge will stop.
- Use a sweeping motion to extinguish the flames, always at the base of the fire, until the fire is completely out.
- After the fire is extinguished, watch the area for several minutes in case it reignites.

NOTE: If the fire is in the engine compartment, be extremely careful opening the engine compartment, as it could cause a flashback. If you are able, try to direct the fire extinguisher through the grill or under the fenders.

After use of any kind, a fire extinguisher should immediately be recharged or replaced.