

# Construction Site: Fire Protection



## Who Provides The Fire Protection?

**OSHA’s Construction Standard at 29 CFR 1926** says: “The employer shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of an effective fire protection and prevention program at the job site throughout all phases of the construction, repair, alteration, or demolition work. The employer shall ensure the availability of the fire protection and suppression equipment required by Subpart F of this part.”

## What does this mean on a multi-employer job site?

Normally the General Contractor will provide ABC-type fire extinguishers in key locations around the site. YET, even if the GC provides some fire protection, every contractor should also have their own ready for use in an emergency.

Here are very specific conditions when you are to have your own fire protection:

- When you have a trailer on site, be sure you have one or more fire extinguishers in or near it.
- When you have a gang box on site, be sure you have a fire extinguisher at the gang box.
- When you have fuel tank storage, be sure you have a fire extinguisher 25 to 75 feet away and visible.
- When you have fuel can storage anywhere on site – including the back of your pickup truck – have a fire extinguisher ready for use.
- When you are fueling equipment, have a fire extinguisher ready for use.
- When you are welding or performing any hot work, provide a fire watcher with fire extinguisher.
- When you have trash bins, trash chutes, excessive storage, etc., have a fire extinguisher nearby.
- When you have chemical use or storage, have one or more fire extinguishers ready.
- When using electrical equipment, be sure you have the appropriate fire extinguisher.
- When you operate closed cab equipment, have a fire extinguisher mounted inside.

**Remember, there are several types of fire extinguishers – be sure you have the right one for the exposure.**

<b>CLASS A</b>	Ordinary Combustible: wood, paper, cloth, trash & other ordinary materials.	
<b>CLASS B</b>	Flammable Liquids & Gases: gasoline, oils, paint, lacquer and tar.	
<b>CLASS C</b>	Fires Involving Live Electrical Equipment.	