

## DDRV Employees Get Hands-On Fire Safety Training

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, VA (DDRV) is DLA's primary distribution center for hazardous material (Haz-Mat), so when Jerri Taylor became the Director of DDRV in April 2004, she made sure the employees understood the importance of working safely.

Under the supervision of the Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) Fire Department, employees from DDRV gathered outside the distribution center for a live demonstration on the proper use fire extinguishers. "I was the first trainee," Taylor said.

Before the training began, Taylor asked the group how many of them had fire

extinguishers at home. Many raised their hands. Then she asked how many of them knew how to use them. Some of the hands went down.

"Due to our Haz-Mat mission, I decided all DDRV employees should have 'hands-on' fire extinguisher training," said Taylor. "But this is also something they can go home and teach their families."

A DSCR Fire Department representative reminded everyone to first pull the fire alarm in a true fire emergency and to always report the use of a fire extinguisher.

To use a fire extinguisher properly, the National Fire Protection Agency suggests remembering the word "PASS."

**P**ull the pin that secures the handle. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.

**A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

**S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.

**S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side across the base of the fire until it is completely out.



*DDRV Director Jerri Taylor was the first trainee to learn the proper way to use a fire extinguisher.*



*DDRV General Equipment Repair Inspector John Sterner douses the flames as a DSCR Fire Department representative supervises.*

