



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. ABC Type Fire Extinguishers are most commonly found in residences or businesses, but there are many other types of extinguishers, such as carbon dioxide or water extinguishers. Though the contents inside the extinguishers may vary, the method of using an extinguisher is the same – PASS (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep). Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely, and always remember to dial 9-1-1.

Safety tips for Fire Extinguishers:

- Use a portable fire extinguisher only when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.
- Extinguishers should be serviced every year by a licensed professional.

Class A: Ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, and paper.



Class B: Flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and oil-based paint.



Class C: Energized electrical equipment - including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, and appliances.



P Pull the pin

A Aim the extinguisher or nozzle at the base of the fire

S Squeeze the handle and release the extinguishing agent

S Sweep the extinguisher from side to side across the base of the fire until it appears to be out

For More Information

www.usfa.dhs.gov

www.nfpa.org