

Fire Extinguishers

It is the responsibility of the Fire Department to provide the fire fighting duties. The production of toxic fumes in buildings makes firefighting potentially dangerous, particularly if a large amount of smoke is being generated.

Before anyone attempts to use a fire extinguisher, you **MUST** ensure that you have activated the nearest fire alarm pull station; only persons who have been trained and are comfortable with the use of fire extinguishers should consider using one to extinguish a small fire. Fire extinguishers are designated to extinguish small, manageable fires.

If you choose to use the fire extinguisher, remember the acronym **P.A.S.S.**:

- **Pull:**
 - The Pin at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.
- **Aim:**
 - At the base of the fire, not the flames. This is important - in order to put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.
- **Squeeze:**
 - The lever slowly; this will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.
- **Sweep:**
 - From side to side; using a sweeping motion.
 - Move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out.
 - Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish.
 - Be sure to read the instructions on your fire extinguisher - different fire extinguishers recommend operating them from different distances.
 - Remember: aim at the base of the fire, not at the flames!!!!

CLASS OF FIRE	FUEL
	Combustible solids such as wood, paper, textiles, and many plastics. You can remember Class 'A' fires by the characteristic Ash they leave.
	Burning liquids. A fire involving flammable or combustible liquids (or gases) is classified as a Class 'B' fire. Think of B for Boil.
	Energized electrical equipment. Kitchen appliances, switchgear, or faulty wiring could become involved in a Class 'C' fire. Remember 'C' for Circuit. If you remove power from a Class 'C' fire, it usually becomes a Class 'A' fire.
	Combustible metal fires. Sodium, potassium, magnesium, and aluminum are examples of metals that will burn at high temperatures, and which could be involved in a Class 'D' fire.
	Fires in cooking appliances that involve combustible cooking media vegetable or animal oils and fats

Will you be exposed to a fire for a long time?

No; portable extinguishers do not last a long time. The following information will help you understand that fire extinguishers are a “first aid” approach.

Type of Extinguisher	Reach of Extinguisher Stream	Duration of Discharge
Pressurized Water	30-40 feet	1-minute
Carbon Dioxide	3-8 feet Approximate based on size	10 - 20 seconds Approximate based on size
Dry Chemical (A-B-C)	6-20 feet Approximate based on size	10 - 20 seconds Approximate based on size

For more information contact:

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