

USING AN EXTINGUISHER



P.A.S.S.

Pull pin.

Aim at base of fire.

Squeeze handle.

Sweep side to side.

Make sure you call 9-1-1 first! An extinguisher is no substitute for the fire department. A fire can double in size every 2-3 minutes.

Make sure you can get out fast if you cannot control the fire. Stay close to a door or window that affords a speedy exit.

Ensure that your extinguisher is the correct type for the fire. Read the label; know in advance what types of extinguishers you have access to.

Inspect extinguishers once a month. Look for signs of damage, corrosion, tampering, and leaks. A partially discharged extinguisher is an empty one.

Know how to use your extinguisher before the fire! It's too late to read the instructions when the fire is burning.

You may not want to use your fire extinguisher if you are unable to get closer than 10-12 feet.

Do not use extinguishers on a person who is on fire. Command them to STOP-DROP-and-ROLL!



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information in this pamphlet is provided as a courtesy and is for general reference only.

For more information,
www.ACFireRescue.org
Voice: 434.296.5833



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FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A basic information guide for the types and use of fire extinguishers



FIRE RESCUE
ALBEMARLE COUNTY





HOW EXTINGUISHERS WORK

Fire is a chemical reaction called combustion which needs fuel, Oxygen, and heat to take place.

Portable fire extinguishers apply an agent that will cool burning fuel or restrict/remove Oxygen so the fire cannot continue to burn. Some types of extinguishing agents put the fire out by interfering with the chemical reaction itself.

Fire extinguishers are special pressurized devices that release chemicals or water to aid in putting out a fire. They keep small fires from spreading, assist in fighting fires until the fire department arrives, and may help protect an escape route for you and your family.

REMEMBER!

- A fire extinguisher is no substitute for the fire department. Always call **9-1-1** first, no matter how small you think the fire is.
- Every home should have at least one (1) fire extinguisher!
- Install and check your smoke detectors monthly.
- Practice **Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH)**.
- Never re-enter a burning building. Once you're out, stay out!

TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS



Class A extinguishers are for ordinary combustible materials such as paper, wood, cardboard, and most plastics. The numerical rating on these types of extinguishers indicates the amount of water it holds and the amount of fire it can extinguish.



Class B fires involve flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, grease, and oil. The numerical rating for class B extinguishers indicates the approximate number of square feet of fire it can extinguish.



Class C fires involve electrical equipment, such as appliances, wiring, circuit breakers, and outlets. Never use water to extinguish class C fires – the risk of electrical shock is far too great! Class C extinguishers do not have a numerical rating. The C classification means the extinguishing agent is non-conductive.



Class D fire extinguishers are commonly found in a chemical laboratory. They are for fires that involve combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, potassium, and sodium. These types of extinguishers also have no numerical rating, nor are they given a multi-purpose rating; they are designed for class D fires only.



Class K fires extinguishers are used for kitchen fires. Class K fires are fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. This is for commercial kitchens, including those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers.

EVALUATE YOUR NEEDS

Before you invest in one or more extinguishers, consider where you need them. Identify hazard areas where fires are likely to start and which type of fire would likely occur in each area.

You should select an extinguisher which can be easily handled by all family members.

Extinguishers should be kept in a convenient location. Everyone in the family should know where they are and how to use them.

The best location in most situations is just inside a door or entrance, out of reach of children.

Avoid locating an extinguisher right next to where a fire could develop. In the event a fire occurs, you may not be able to reach the extinguisher due to smoke, heat, or flames.

Only purchase extinguisher listed by a nationally accepted testing laboratory.

Check the manufacturer's instructions for installation guidelines.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Smoke detectors provide a first line of defense against all fires. Detectors will warn you of a fire while it is still small enough to put out with an extinguisher, and most importantly, they provide the time needed for you and your family to escape.

Develop and practice a home escape plan.

Never re-enter a burning building for any reason.