

Fire Extinguishers



Types of Fires

Ordinary Combustibles
paper, wood, cloth,
rubber and many plastics

Flammable Liquids
oils, gasoline, grease, solvents,
lacquers and some paints

Energized Electrical Equipment
electrical sources which are
still supplied with power



All extinguisher labels display letters and/or symbols as shown above to indicate which types of fires they can be effectively used.

Common Types of Fire Extinguishers

Multipurpose (ABC) Dry Chemical

Multipurpose (ABC) dry chemical may be used on all types of fires, and is the least expensive of the extinguishing agents. The most common size is 2:A-10:B-C and weighs about five pounds.

Halon

Halon is often used around computer systems and electronic equipment because it leaves no residue. However, it is currently being phased out because of its damaging effects on the environment. Halon extinguishers are rated ABC or BC depending on size.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

CO₂ may be used on most mechanical and electrical fires. Because it is less effective on ordinary combustible (class A) fires, CO₂ is usually only rated BC depending on the size of the extinguisher.

Pressurized Water

Pressurized water extinguishers are designed for use on ordinary combustible (class A) fires only. Use of water on fires involving flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment can be very dangerous.

Fire Extinguisher Operation

If you attempt to fight the fire, remember the acronym P.A.S.S.

Pull the Pin

A small pin inserted through the handle of the fire extinguisher prevents accidental discharge. It is held in place by a thin plastic strap which will break easily when the pin is pulled or twisted.

Aim the Extinguisher

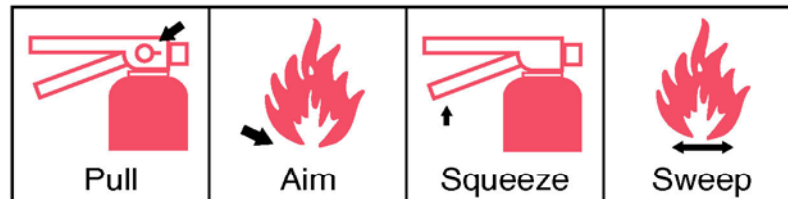
Point or aim the extinguisher at the base or front edge of the fire.

Squeeze the Handle

Squeeze the handle to discharge the fire extinguisher.

Sweep from Side to Side

Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep side to side, pushing the fire away from you.



Safety Precautions

Keep in mind the following safety precautions if attempting to extinguish a fire:

- Be sure you have the right type of extinguisher for type of fire and know how to use it.
- Maintain your exit. Leave yourself a way out in case the fire gets out of control.
- Have a back-up person standing by whenever possible in case assistance is needed.
- Stop and leave the area if you experience any physical problems such as dizziness or difficulty breathing.
- Never turn your back on a fire you think is out. A fire may reignite or may still be smoldering where it cannot be seen.
- If an extinguisher has been used, if rechargeable, have it serviced before returning to original location.

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