

Fire Safety Information Bulletin

Fire Extinguishers

It is vital to know what type of extinguisher you are using. Using the wrong type of extinguisher for the wrong type of fire can be life threatening.



Although everyone should have at least one fire extinguisher it's just as important to have the right type of fire extinguisher for the situation. Fire protection experts recommend one for the kitchen, the garage and workshop. Selecting the right fire extinguisher for your home is important!

Fire extinguishers are divided into four Classes, (for different types of fires) and some have a numerical rating that serves as a guide for the amount of fire the extinguisher can handle.

Class A Extinguishers are for ordinary combustable materials such as paper, wood, cardboard, and most plastics. They should never be used on a grease fire.

Class B Extinguishers are used for fires that involve flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, grease and oil.

Class C Extinguishers are for fires that involve electrical equipment, such as appliances, wiring, circuit breakers and outlets. (Never use water to extinguish an electrical fire the risk of electrical shock is far too great!)

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. They are designed for Class D fires only.

Dry Chemical extinguishers are available in a variety of types and are suitable for a combination of Class A, B, and C fires such as Type BC or Type ABC.

Carbon Dioxide extinguishers are for Type BC fires.

Water Extinguishers are for Class A fires only.

Fire extinguishers should be located where they easily accessible, near unobstructed exits and away from potential fire hazards such as heating or cooking appliances.

If you need to use your extinguisher....

Always sound an alarm first, or notify someone to call **9-1-1**. (All fires big or small should be reported.)

Make sure that everyone has left, or is leaving the building.

Make sure that the fire is confined to a small area and is not spreading.

Make sure you are in a location where you are near an exit, so if the fire gets too large to handle you will not be trapped and still have a way out.

Use the P.A.S.S. technique!

Pull the pin, **Aim** the nozzle at the base of the fire, **Squeeze** the handle and **Sweep** back and forth at the base of the fire until no flames are visible.

Check your extinguisher monthly. If the gage reads in the red or the extinguisher is damaged have it serviced or replaced immediately. Fire extinguishers in the workplace are required to be serviced annually by a licensed contractor.

