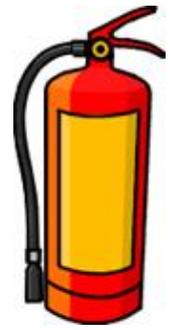


Fire extinguishers



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. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely, using a predesignated home fire escape plan and meeting location. **ONCE OUT, STAY OUT!** Never return for pets or personal items.

Safety tips

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area (such as a wastebasket), everyone has exited the building, and the fire department has been called, and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word P-A-S-S:
 - **P**ull the pin.
 - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose A-B-C extinguisher that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle. Fires are classified as:
 - **A** – wood, paper, trash
 - **B** – flammable liquids
 - **C** – energized electrical fire
 - **D** – flammable metals (not likely to be in a household setting)
- 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 is not easily controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately. Never allow the fire to be between you and your exit.
- REMEMBER, fire extinguishers are only one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is a safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms. Smoke detectors should be tested monthly, and batteries changed every six months.