

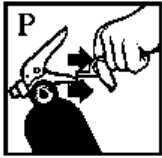
USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Learn about extinguisher operation before you need the extinguisher. They are very simple to use, but practice can prevent a disaster.

Remember: Pull-Aim-Squeeze-Sweep

Extinguisher Operation

Although extinguishers vary in size, color, and type of extinguishing agent, the vast majority of devices operate basically the same way. Stand six to eight feet from the fire with your back to an unblocked exit. If the fire is small and heavy smoke is NOT present and you have an exit available to you for evacuation purposes, grab the nearest appropriate extinguisher and operate the following P-A-S-S procedure (This technique is published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)).



P – Pull the pin located in the extinguisher’s handle (twist to break the seal).



A – Aim the nozzle, horn or hose at the base of the fire.



S – Squeeze or press the handle.



S – Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it is out.

Extinguisher Types

Not every extinguisher works on all kinds of fires, but some are effective on two or even three kinds of fires. Ensure your extinguisher will work on combustibles in the area by checking the classification of your extinguisher:

- **Class A** - suitable for ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, cloth and rubber
- **Class B** - effective on flammable liquids such as fuel oil, gasoline, cooking grease and solvents
- **Class C** - good for energized electrical equipment such as wiring, fuse boxes and electrical motors
- **Class D** - designed for combustible metals such as magnesium, sodium and zirconium
- **Class ABC** – good on all fires except those with combustible metals. Most Library extinguishers are of this type.

Extinguisher Tips

- Always place yourself between the exit and the fire so that you can escape if the fire does not go out.
- Familiarize yourself with the location and operating instructions of your extinguishers.

Remember...

Never place yourself or others in jeopardy by attempting to extinguish a fire. If you cannot extinguish a small fire with a portable fire extinguisher, or if the smoke becomes hazardous, leave the area. Close the door to confine and contain the fire. Activate the fire alarm, call **9-911**, and wait outside for the firefighters to arrive.