

Fire Extinguisher Use: Make Seconds COUNT!

Fire extinguishers are an important piece of safety equipment. In the event of a fire, seconds count. Follow these tips to be sure you are prepared to use a fire extinguisher and maximize the limited supply of material available to help you extinguish a fire.

Remember the acronym **P.A.S.S.**

P – **Pull** the pin in the handle.

A – **Aim** the nozzle at the base of the fire. It is critical to hit the “fuel” or base of the fire not the flames.

S – **Squeeze** the lever slowly. Always start from a safe distance and gradually move towards the fire as it begins to dissipate.

S – **Sweep** from side to side. Continue until the fire is completely out.



Be sure your fire extinguishers are matched to the type of flammable materials, often referred to as “fuel”, in your environment. Use the chart below as a reference for the type of fire extinguishers that work best in different environments. Armed with this information, be sure to check the fire extinguishers you have to be sure they will work in the event of an emergency. Remember, every employer must record the annual maintenance date and keep this record for one year after the last entry or the life of the fire extinguisher shell, whichever is less.

Type of Fire or “Fuel”	Symbol	Type of Extinguisher Needed
Ordinary Combustibles: Fires in paper, cloth, wood, rubber, and many plastics.	A	Water - Air-pressurized Water Extinguisher (APW)
Flammable Liquids: Fires in oils, gasoline, some paints, lacquers, grease and solvents.	B	CO₂ or Dry Chemical - Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers
Electrical Equipment: Fires in wiring, fuse boxes, energized electrical equipment, computers, and other electrical sources.	C	CO₂ or Dry Chemical - Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers
Ordinary Combustibles, Flammable Liquids, or Electrical Equipment: Multi-purpose dry chemical is suitable for use on class A, B, and C.	ABC	Multi-purpose - Dry Chemical Extinguishers
Kitchen Fires: Fires involving combustible cooking fluids such as oils and fats.	K	Class K - Dry and Wet Chemical Extinguishers for Kitchen Fires

SafetyConnection: Fire Extinguisher Safety

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