

CLASSES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The four classes of fire are: **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**.

Choosing the right classification for the type of fire is extremely important.

CLASS A: Ordinary Combustibles used on wood, paper, plastic, rubber or cloth.



CLASS B: Flammable or Combustible liquids use on gasoline, oil, grease, tar, lacquer, oil-based paints, and other flammable gases.



CLASS C: Electrical Equipment use on energized electrical equipment such as wiring, fuse boxes, breakers, machinery, and appliances.



CLASS D: Combustible Metals used on industrial metal such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, potassium, or other flammable metals.



Remember!

Pull

Aim

Squeeze

Sweep



EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

When a small fire breaks out, have someone else call **9-1-1** immediately! To use the portable fire extinguisher effectively, remember these four steps.

P = Pull the pin. Be sure the extinguisher has the nozzle pointing away from you.

A = Aim the extinguisher nozzle (or hose) at the base (bottom) of the fire. Hold the extinguisher vertically, never horizontally. Stand about 6-10 feet away from the fire.

S = Squeeze the handle fully to release the extinguishing agent through the nozzle. Releasing the lever will stop the discharge.

S = Sweep the nozzle from side to side aiming at the base of the fire. Continue the sweeping motion until the fire is out. If you run out of chemical before the fire is out, either leave immediately or have a second extinguisher within arms reach.

Fire Extinguishers



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PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A portable fire extinguisher can be a very effective tool in saving lives and property for small, contained fires. Having working smoke alarms through out your home will help ensure you are alerted before a fire gets out of control.

A typical fire extinguisher contains less than 20 seconds of extinguishing power, it can be considerably less if the extinguisher has been previously used which is why it is extremely important to recharge it after every use.

Selecting the proper type of extinguisher for your needs is important. The recommended type is an ABC with a 2A:10-B:C rating. (can be found at your local hardware store.) Every home should have at least one, but it's a good idea to have one in the kitchen, garage, and workshop. Keep your extinguishers in an unobstructed area and in clear view, making sure everyone in the home knows where they are located and how to operate one.

-Always read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher beforehand.

-Familiarize yourself with the extinguisher parts and how they work.

-To keep the chemical from becoming solid inside the extinguisher, shake it several times a year.

-Although it's suggested an extinguisher be kept in the kitchen if a grease fire starts the best idea is to slid a lid over the pan and turn off the heat.

WHEN RESPONDING TO A FIRE

When you decide to take on a fire be sure:

- The fire alarm has been activated and/or the occupants have been notified.
- Everyone has evacuated or is in the process of evacuating.
- 9-1-1** has been called.
- The fire is small and not spreading rapidly, fires can double their size in less than 2 minutes.
- You have the proper kind of extinguisher. Using the wrong type of extinguisher can be life threatening.
- Keep your back to your exit, preventing your escape route from being blocked by fire in case you are unable to extinguish it. **Do not** let anything come between you and your exit.
- Stay low away from smoke. If there is too much smoke or you are at risk of inhaling smoke or toxic gases. **Get out!**
(1 out of 7 fire-related deaths occur from breathing poisonous gases)
- You know how to use your extinguisher. You have no time to read directions.

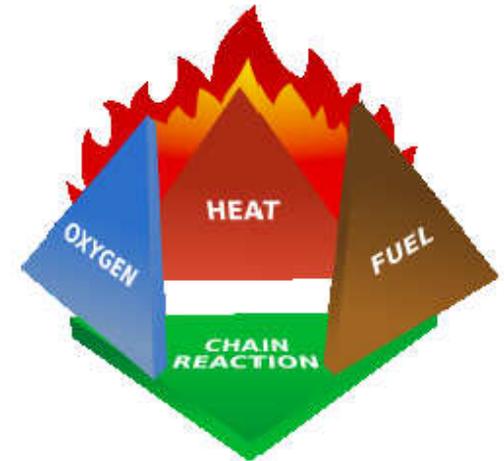
NEVER try to fight a fire if you have any doubts about your ability to extinguish it.

NEVER try to fight a fire if it is spreading rapidly.

NEVER try to fight a fire if you don't know what's burning.

Just because the flames are not visible doesn't mean the fire is out, embers can continue to burn. Stand by for at least 10 minutes to be sure the fire does not re-ignite.

WHAT IS FIRE?



The above picture represents the FIRE TETRAHEDRON, consisting of four essential parts: Fuel, Oxygen, Heat, and Chain Reaction. It is important to understand the basics of fire so you can make a better decision in a dangerous situation. In order for a fire to burn it needs heat, fuel, and oxygen. A fire naturally occurs when these elements combine with the right mixture. Most fires can be put out if one of those elements are removed, however it is not always the case if there are chemicals involved causing a chain reaction. Putting water on some chemicals can fuel the fire, increasing the heat and becoming a dangerous gas. In a situation where unknown chemicals are involved it is best to call **9-1-1**.

FUEL without it, a fire will stop. Fuel can be any solid, liquid, or gas

HEAT without sufficient heat, a fire cannot begin. Heat adds to the increase in materials & their ignition temperatures.

OXYGEN (AIR) without it, a fire cannot begin or continue. Oxygen is almost instantly consumed by fire, smother or enclose the fire and it can't breathe.