

Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers can be a useful firefighting tool, but proper training is required in order for people to use extinguishers safely and effectively. If used properly, a portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or controlling it until the fire department arrives.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Fight a fire only if you feel confident in how to use a fire extinguisher and your escape route remains clear.
- Be familiar with the “PASS” procedure.
- Do not use an extinguisher to fight a large or spreading fire.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Portable fire extinguishers can be a useful tool, but proper training is required in order for people to use extinguishers safely and effectively.
- When using an extinguisher to put out a fire, use the four-step PASS procedure:
- PULL the pin: this unlocks the operating lever and allows you to discharge the extinguisher.
- AIM low: point the extinguisher nozzle (or hose) at the base of the fire.
- SQUEEZE the lever above the handle: this discharges the extinguishing agent. Releasing the lever will stop the discharge.
- SWEEP from side to side: moving carefully toward the fire, keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until the flames appear to be out. Watch the fire area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat the process.