

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are designed to put out small, contained fires. They are not to be used on large or spreading fires. Having a small portable fire extinguisher in your home can increase home fire safety and sometimes lower your home insurance rates.

Fire extinguishers are rated by the size and the type of fire they would be able to extinguish.

- Type “A” - Fires involving ordinary combustibles, such as paper, wood, cloth rubber or plastics.
- Type “B” - Fires involving flammable liquids, Gasoline, grease, oils and some paints.
- Type “C” - Fires involving energized electrical equipment.

A Multi-Purpose - Type ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher is a good type to have in your home.

Before using a fire extinguisher, you should make sure everyone in the home has been alerted and is leaving the building, and make sure you call the fire department before attempting to extinguish a fire. You can ask the following questions to help you determine if you should attempt to extinguish a fire.



1. Is the fire small and contained?
2. Do I have the proper type of extinguisher for the type of fire?
3. Is the fire located in an area that is structurally stable?
4. Is the area free from any other hazards?
5. Can I safely escape if my extinguishing effort is not effective?
6. Am I physically and mentally able to use a fire extinguisher?

If you answer, “Yes” to the above questions you should be able to safely attempt to put out the fire with an extinguisher.

Remember the term **P.A.S.S.** when using a fire extinguisher.

- **P** - Pull the safety pin from the top of the extinguisher.
- **A** - Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- **S** - Squeeze the trigger handle.
- **S** - Sweep the nozzle from side to side at the base of fire until fire goes out.