

WHAT CAN I DO?

Learn when and how to use an extinguisher before you need one!



Classes of extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are classified in three specific classes created to match the typical fires found in homes. Fire extinguishers are marked with the following symbols and letters to explain the classes of fire that they put out.

A

Ordinary Combustibles

for fires involving common combustibles such as paper, cloth, wood, and plastics

B

Flammable Liquids

for fires involving flammable liquids such as gasoline, solvents, oils, and some paints

C

Electrical Equipment

for fires involving electrical and electronic equipment such as home appliances, stereos, TVs, computers, wiring and fuse boxes, and electric motors

This is the labeling system with a diagonal red line drawn through the picture to indicate what type of fire this extinguisher is NOT suitable for.



Fire extinguishers also come in a variety of sizes. Select a size you can control.

Fighting the fire

Store your extinguisher near your exit and easily accessible. Using an extinguisher is a skill that should be performed by an adult. There are a few things to remember prior to fighting the fire:

-  Be **SURE** that everyone is out of the house, and 911 has been called
-  Be **SURE** the fire is small, contained, and has not spread beyond your control
-  Be **SURE** that you have a clear escape path out of your home
-  Be **SURE** to stand with your back to your clear escape path and approximately 8 feet from the fire



P. A. S. S.

Pull the pin at the top of the extinguisher that keeps the handle from being accidentally pressed.

Aim the nozzle toward the base of the fire.

Squeeze the handle to discharge the extinguisher. If you release the handle, the discharge will stop.

Sweep the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. After the fire appears to be out, watch it carefully since it may re-ignite!

If you have the slightest doubt about whether or not to fight the fire ...

DON'T!

Instead, get out and close the door behind you to slow the spread of the fire. Your fire department is standing by ready to protect you. Let the firefighters do their job.



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Fire Extinguisher Usage



Check it out!

www.checkitout.state.mn.us

Fire extinguishers can be a very effective tool for saving lives and property. Many people have them in cars, at home or at work. But not everyone understands them or knows how to operate them. This knowledge could save your life or those of the people you love.

Fire extinguishers are not designed to fight a large or spreading fires. Even against small fires, they are useful only under the right conditions. The operator should be familiar with the extinguisher so it won't be necessary to read directions in an emergency.

🔥 There were 4,858 residential structure fires in Minnesota in 2003. A fire was reported every 26 minutes, resulting in losses of \$422,928 each day. Residential fires accounted for 60% of dollar loss and represented 70% of structure fires in 2003.

🔥 In 2003, 46 civilian deaths were recorded and one firefighter died in the line of duty, 160 civilians suffered injuries, and 317 firefighters were injured.

Check it out!
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