

## Fire Extinguishers

Fires kill more people each year than all natural disasters combined, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Most of the homes and buildings that burn are not equipped with fire extinguishers. To keep your workplace safe, it is crucial to know ahead of time how to properly operate fire extinguishers.

### What Type of Extinguisher Do I Need?

There are many types of fire extinguishers available, the most common being a multi-purpose ABC. Using the different class levels, you can choose the right type of extinguisher for your workplace.

- Class **A**: Ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, and hay.
- Class **B**: Flammable liquids such as gas, oil, and grease.
- Class **C**: Electrical equipment.
- Class **D**: Flammable metals. Commonly found in a chemical laboratory.

### How Do I Operate a Fire Extinguisher?

Remember to **PASS**: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep.

- **P**ull the pin at the top of the extinguisher to release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im the nozzle at the **BASE** of the fire to extinguish it at its source.
- **S**queeze the handle slowly. If you release the handle, the spray will stop.
- **S**weep the nozzle side to side at the base of the fire from a safe distance.

### When and How Should I Use a Fire Extinguisher?

- Make sure you have the right class of extinguisher for what is burning.
- Only use extinguishers on small, manageable fires that are not spreading quickly.
- Stand with an exit at your back to avoid being trapped by the fire.
- Watch the area for a while to make sure it does not re-ignite.

### When Should I NOT Use a Fire Extinguisher?

- If the fire is spreading quickly, evacuate the building and call the fire department.
- If you don't have the proper extinguisher for the type of fire, evacuate and call 911.
- If you don't know what is burning, evacuate immediately to avoid inhaling toxic smoke.
- If there is too much smoke or risk of inhaling smoke, evacuate immediately. Seven out of ten fire-related deaths occur from breathing the poisonous gasses produced by a fire.

For more information, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov), [www.firesafety.gov](http://www.firesafety.gov), or [www.fire-extinguisher101.com](http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com).



**TAKE SAFETY  
PERSONALLY.**

**MAKE IT PART  
OF YOUR DAILY  
ROUTINE.**

**THINK SAFETY!**

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