

When and How to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

1. Fight or Flee

Your safety is the top priority! Do not fight the fire if:

- There is a considerable amount of heat.
- There is significant smoke or fumes.
- There is any possibility of getting trapped by the fire.

2. Call 911

Always call 9-1-1- before attempting to extinguish the fire.

3. Choose the Correct Extinguisher

- **A** - For use with Ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper. Often found in homes and businesses.
- **B** - For use with combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints. Often found in homes and businesses.
- **C** - For use with electrical equipment like appliances, tools or other equipment that is plugged in. Often found in homes and businesses.
- **D** - For use with flammable metals. Often found in factories.
- **K** - For use with vegetable oils, animal oils, and fats in cooking appliances. Often found in commercial kitchens.

4. Remember to P.A.S.S.

- **P**ull
- **A**im
- **S**queeze
- **S**weep

5. After the Fire

- Fires frequently re-ignite so always call 9-1-1 to have the fire department ensure the fire is safely extinguished.
- Make sure your fire extinguisher is recharged. No matter how long it was used, it will need to be checked and recharged.
- If your fire extinguisher is not rechargeable, get a replacement one and properly dispose of the used one.

Check fire extinguishers for:

- **Easy access in an emergency**
- Be sure nothing is blocking or limiting your ability to reach it.
- **The recommended pressure level**
- Many extinguishers have gauges that show when pressure is too high or too low.
- **Working parts**
- Make sure the can, hoses and nozzles aren't damaged, dented, or rusted.
- **Cleanliness**
- Remove any dust, oil, or grease that might be on the outside of the extinguisher.
- **Guidelines and instructions**
- Some extinguishers need to be shaken monthly, others need to be pressure tested every few years.

**Source: US Fire Administration*

PULL



PULL THE PIN

AIM



AIM AT THE BASE OF FIRE

SQUEEZE



SQUEEZE THE OPERATING HANDLE

SWEEP



SWEEP FROM SIDE TO SIDE