

# Fire Extinguishers



Community Fire Safety Operational Guide

Participant Guideline

## What Are the Different Types of Fire Extinguishers?

There are basically three different types of fire extinguishing agents for home use. Portable fire extinguishers are labeled according to the type of fire they are used for: pressurized water for type "A" fires; carbon dioxide for Type "B" fires; and dry chemical for type "C" fires or multipurpose dry chemical for type A, B and C fires. Fires involving ordinary combustible products, flammable liquids and electrical fires all react differently to the type of extinguisher being used. The three classes for home use are:



Type "A" fire extinguishers are used for ordinary combustible products such as paper, wood, rubber and many plastics.



Type "B" fire extinguishers are used for flammable liquid fires such as grease, oil, gasoline and solvents.



Type "C" fire extinguishers are used for electrical fires in wiring, fuse boxes, electrical equipment and other devices powered by electrical current.



## Five Quick Tips

1. If there is a fire call 9-1-1.
2. Know how to use a fire extinguisher and understand the risks of fighting a fire.
3. If the fire is too large, do not attempt the use of a fire extinguisher.
4. If it is too hot and smokey get out.
5. Make sure you have a safe fire escape route behind you.

## Proper Use of Fire Extinguishers

Get proper training on the use, care and maintenance of your fire extinguisher.

Remember: fire extinguishers are not meant to fight a large or spreading fire.

Know the acronym **P.A.S.S.** when operating a fire extinguisher.

- **P**ull the ring pin
- **A**im the nozzle at the base of the fire
- **S**queeze the handle
- **S**weep the nozzle from side to side at the base of the fire

Make sure your fire extinguisher is the right type for the fire you are extinguishing.

## Is Your Fire Extinguisher...

- Accessible and not blocked by furniture and other objects.
- Still pressurized with the gauge in the green zone.
- Nozzle clear and unobstructed.
- Pull pin and tamper seal still in place.
- Free of rust and signs of wear.

*Remember...*  
**Learn how to use a fire extinguisher before you need it.**

"Smoke Detectors and Exit Drills in the Home...A Plan You Can Live With"