

Portable Fire Extinguisher Types and Use

Before you ever use a portable fire extinguisher, you should know the extinguisher to use for each fire class:

- (A) For fires involving combustibles like wood or paper
- (B) For flammable liquids and gases
- (C) For fires where electricity may be present
- (D) For combustible metals like magnesium

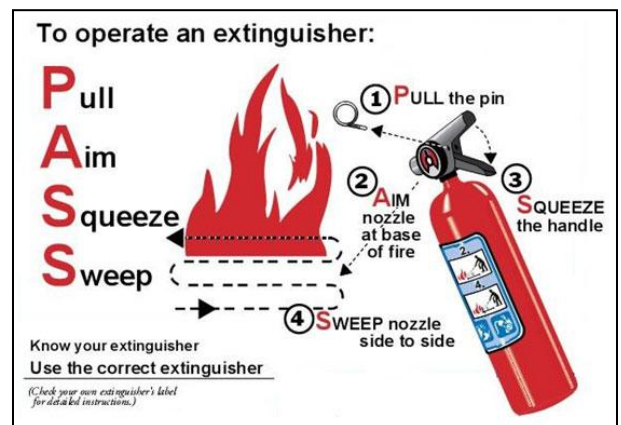
Fire extinguishers are labeled for use on either a single class of fire (A) or (D), or for multiple classes fires (BC), or (ABC). Only trained employees should use fire extinguishers.



Portable Fire Extinguishers - PASS




Be sure to remember the PASS operating technique for portable fire extinguishers. PASS stands for:

- P** - Pull the pin. Pulling the pin unlocks the operating lever or button so you can discharge the extinguisher. Stand at least 6 to 8 feet from the fire.
- A** - Aim low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire.
- S** - Squeeze the lever below the handle. Squeezing the lever discharges the contents of the extinguisher. When you release the lever, the discharge stops. Some models have a button to press rather than a lever.
- S** - Moving carefully toward the fire, keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep from side to side until the flames appear to be out.



Watch the area. If the fire starts up again, repeat the PASS technique.

Additional Firefighting Tips

-  Most fire extinguishers are emptied in less than a minute.
-  Do not attempt to fight a large fire.
-  Always leave yourself a way out--keep your back to an exit.

