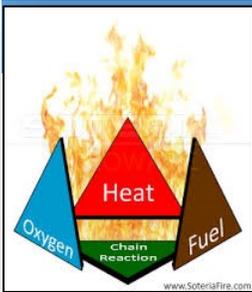


# Safe Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers can be an important tool in preventing a small fire from growing larger. However, they should never be used to combat large or rapidly spreading fires. The most important thing to do during a fire is to get yourself to safety then call the proper authorities to combat the fire. A building and the property inside is not worth putting yourself or anyone at risk trying to put a fire out with an extinguisher. It is important to understand how to use a fire extinguisher and their limitations.



## Four Components of a Fire

Four elements are required for a fire:

Fuel Source      Oxygen  
Ignition          Chain Reaction

## Inspecting Fire Extinguishers

- Extinguishers must be visually inspected every 30 days. There must be an annual formal maintenance check of all fire extinguishers. Document the inspections.
- Look for signs of physical damage on the container and ensure that the label is legible and in good condition.
- Check the pressure of the fire extinguisher. There is a gauge that has an arrow, the arrow should be in the green portion of the gauge. If the arrow is in the red area the fire extinguisher must be recharged and tagged out of service.
- Ensure the pin is firmly in place, and secured by a breakaway seal. Often times the pin is bumped out of place leaving the chance of accidental discharge occurring.

## Use of a Fire Extinguisher

Always remember to use the PASS method when using a Fire Extinguisher:

- **P:** Pull Pin, from the handle of fire extinguisher
- **A:** Aim nozzle at base of fire
- **S:** Squeeze handle of extinguisher, slow and evenly
- **S:** Sweep extinguishing agent back and forth across base of fire

## Types of Fire Extinguishers and Their Uses

There are several different types of fire extinguishers, used for vastly different uses:

- Class A—Ordinary Combustibles, such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber and plastic.
- Class B—Flammable/Combustible Liquids, such as gasoline, solvents, chemicals, oil, grease, paints, and thinners.
- Class C—Energized Electrical Equipment, such as motors, transformers, generators, electrical panels and wiring.
- Class D—Combustible Metals, such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, lithium, potassium, and sodium.

KNOW YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER				
CHOOSING THE RIGHT EXTINGUISHER CAN PREVENT PROPERTY DAMAGE AND SAVE LIVES				
Extinguisher Type →	Water	Foam	CO <sub>2</sub>	Dry Chemical
Type of Fire ↓				
<b>A</b> Paper, Wood & Plastic	✓	✓	X	✓
<b>B</b> Flammable & Combustible Liquids	X	✓	✓	✓
<b>C</b> Electrical Equipment	X	X	✓	✓