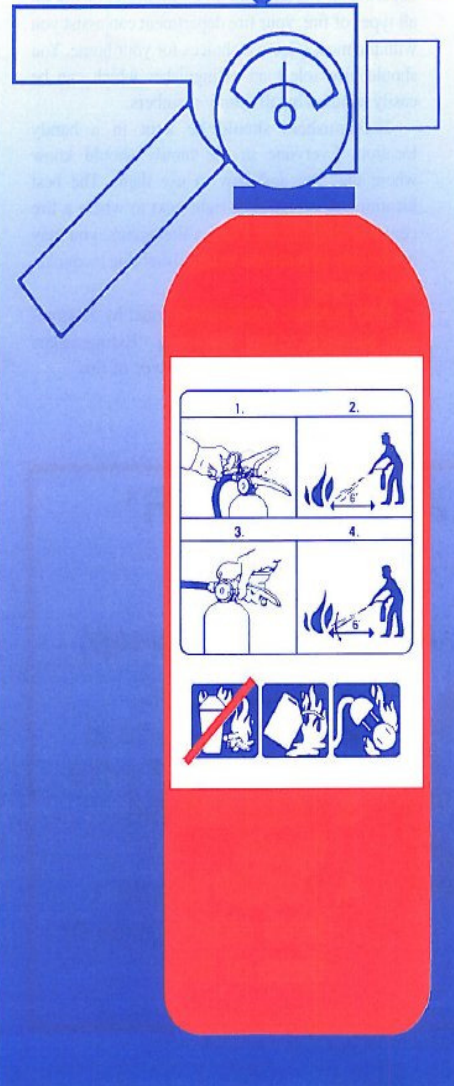




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# Home Fire Extinguishers



*Fire extinguishers are special pressurized devices that release chemicals or water to aid in putting out a fire. They keep small fires from spreading, assist in fighting fires until the fire department arrives and may help provide an escape route for you and your family.*

**REMEMBER:** A fire extinguisher is no substitute for the fire department. Always call the fire department first – no matter how small you think the fire is.

## How do fire extinguishers work?

Fire is a chemical reaction called combustion which needs fuel, oxygen and heat to take place. Portable fire extinguishers apply an "agent" that will cool burning fuel or restrict or remove oxygen so the fire cannot continue to burn. Some types of extinguishing agents put the fire out by interfering with the chemical reaction itself.

Household fires which are small can quickly be controlled by a fire extinguisher. Approximately one-fourth of all fire-related civilian injuries occur while attempting to control or extinguish the fire.

**Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher!**

**Use the correct extinguisher**



For **CLASS A** fires in **ordinary combustibles**, such as wood, paper, cloth, upholstery, plastics and similar materials, use a water or dry chemical extinguisher with either of these symbols on the label.



For **CLASS B** fires fueled by **flammable liquids and gases**, such as kitchen greases, paint, oil, kerosene and gasoline, use a dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguisher with either of these symbols on the label. **NEVER USE WATER.**



For **CLASS C** fires involving **live electrical equipment or wires**, use a dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguisher with either of these symbols on the label. If possible, cut off power first. Once the power is turned off, the fire becomes class A or B. **NEVER USE WATER.**



**Know your extinguisher**

Before you invest in one or more extinguishers, consider where you need them. Identify hazardous areas where fires are likely to start and which type of fire would likely occur in each area.

Discuss your needs with your local fire department. Because not all extinguishers work on all types of fire, your fire department can assist you with the most effective choices for your home. You should also select an extinguisher which can be easily handled by all family members.

Extinguishers should be kept in a handy location. Everyone in the family should know where they are and how to use them. The best location an extinguisher right next to where a fire could develop. In the event a fire occurs, you may not be able to reach the extinguisher due to smoke, heat or flames.

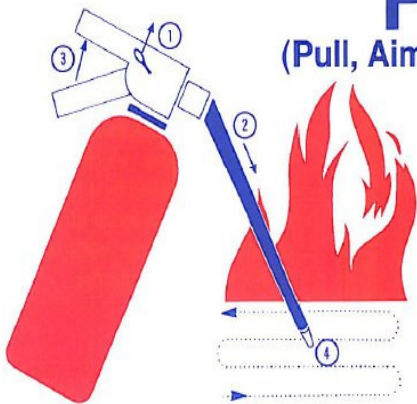
Only purchase extinguishers listed by a nationally accepted testing laboratory. Extinguishers rated ABC are effective on most type of fire.

**Attempt to put out a fire only if:**

- **You have first called the fire department.** An extinguisher is no substitute for the fire department.
- **The fire is small and not spreading.** A fire can double in size every two to three minutes.
- **The fire is not between you and your exit.** Make sure you can get out fast if you cannot control the fire.
- **Your extinguisher is the correct type for what's burning.** READ THE LABEL; know in advance what types of extinguishers you have in your home.
- **Your extinguisher works.** Inspect extinguishers once a month for signs of damage, corrosion, tampering and leaks. A partially discharged extinguisher is an empty one.
- **You know how to use your extinguisher.** It's too late to read the instructions when the fire is burning. Some fire departments offer extinguisher training classes. Attend one.

**TO OPERATE EXTINGUISHER\*  
PASS**

(Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep)



1. **PULL** the pin
2. **AIM** the nozzle at the base of the fire
3. **SQUEEZE** the handle
4. **SWEEP** nozzle from side to side at base of fire

\* Check your extinguisher for detailed instructions for your particular brand or type.

**REMEMBER: SMOKE DETECTORS** provide a first line of defense against fires. They will warn you of a fire while it's still small enough to put out with an extinguisher and, most importantly, they provide the time needed for you and your family to escape.

**DEVELOP AND PRACTICE** a home fire escape plan.

**NEVER RE-ENTER** a burning building for any reason.