

# CLASSES OF FIRE

The four classes of fire are: **A, B, C** and **D**.

Choosing the right classification for the type of fire is extremely important to reduce the severity of the fire.

**CLASS A: Ordinary Combustibles** used on wood, paper, plastic, rubber or cloth.



**CLASS B: Flammable or Combustible liquids**

used on gasoline, oil, grease, tar, lacquer, and oil-based paints.



**CLASS C: Electrical Equipment** used on

energized electrical equipment such as wiring, fuse boxes, breakers, machinery, and

appliances.



**CLASS D: Combustible Metals** used on

industrial metal or metal dust such as magnesium, sodium, and potassium.



## PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR BUSINESS

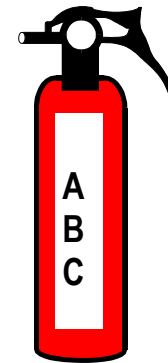
- It is required by law that all portable fire extinguishers be serviced annually by a licensed company.
- All extinguishers are to be mounted where readily available and visible with the top of the extinguisher not higher than 5' from the ground.
- Most portable fire extinguishers will be a 2A10BC rating and have one for every 75' of travel distance.
- Required training for all employees, either through lecture or hands-on training.

## PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR HOME USE

- It is not required by law to have a portable fire extinguisher for home use; however it is always beneficial!
- In order to keep the chemical from caking (becoming solid) shake the extinguisher several times a year.
- If providing a portable fire extinguisher for your home make sure to keep it in an accessible location.
- Although a portable fire extinguisher can be used for a kitchen fire, if you have a grease pan fire the best approach is to slide a lid over the pan on fire.

San Bernardino  
County Fire  
Department

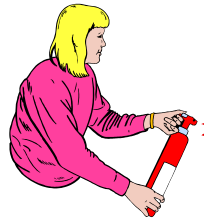
Portable  
Fire  
Extinguisher



FIRE SAFETY  
We all take part



Before using a fire extinguisher make sure that you follow the following guidelines



- 1) Building fire alarm has been sounded (if installed) or all occupants have been alerted.
- 2) Everyone has left or is in the process of leaving the building.
- 1) The Fire Department (9-1-1) has been called.
- 2) The fire is small and confined to a small area.
- 3) Your escape route is clear and is not blocked by the fire.
- 4) You know where the fire extinguisher(s) are located and that you can lift them.
- 5) The correct class of fire extinguisher will be used.
- 6) You have had training on how to use the fire extinguisher.

A portable fire extinguisher can be a very effective tool in saving lives and property for small, contained fires. There are limitations to portable fire extinguisher in that they are not designed to fight large fires or fires that spread quickly. Use of the portable fire extinguisher should only be used for fires in the early (incipient) stages.

## EXTINGUISHER OPERATION

When a small fire breaks out, have someone else call the fire department (9-1-1) immediately! To use the portable fire extinguisher effectively, remember the four step acronym **P.A.S.S.**

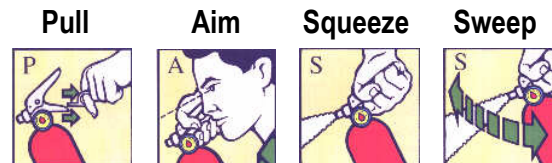
**P = Pull** the pin holding the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you. Remove the pin, seal or the lever release mechanism to unlock the operating lever.

**A = Aim** the extinguisher nozzle (or hose) at the base (bottom) of the fire. Always hold the extinguisher vertically, never horizontally and stand about 6-10 feet away from the fire.

**S = Squeeze** the lever fully to release the extinguishing agent through the nozzle. Releasing the lever will stop the discharge.

**S = Sweep** the nozzle from side to side aiming at the base of the fire. Continue the sweeping motion until the fire is extinguished. If you run out of chemical before the fire is out, either leave immediately or have a second extinguisher within arms reach.

### REMEMBER TO:



When using a portable fire extinguisher

**Fire** is a combination of oxygen, fuel and heat. This is called the Fire Triangle. Remove any one side of the

## WHAT IS FIRE?

triangle and the fire will go out.



**FUEL** can be any solid, liquid, or gas

**HEAT** adds to the increase in materials to their ignition temperature

**OXYGEN (AIR)** is the oxidizing agent extracted from the air. Normal air is 21% and oxygen of 16% is needed to sustain a fire.

## San Bernardino County Fire Department

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