

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

In the event of a fire, the correct use of a portable fire extinguisher can mean the difference between suffering a minor loss or a major one. You must know the class of fire involved and the correct type of fire extinguisher to use.

### CLASSES OF FIRES AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

	Fire Type	Extinguisher Type
 <b>A</b>	<b>Class A</b> combustibles such as paper, wood, cloth, rubber, or plastics.	The common extinguishing medium is water or dry chemical.
 <b>B</b>	<b>Class B</b> involves flammable liquids, grease, or gases.	The common extinguishing media are foam, carbon dioxide, or dry chemical.
 <b>C</b>	<b>Class C</b> involves live electrical fires.	CO <sub>2</sub> or dry chemical extinguishers should be used. However, the actual burning product may be a class A item.
 <b>D</b>	<b>Class D</b> involves burning materials that include combustible metals, such as magnesium and sodium.	Special extinguishing agents, approved by recognized testing laboratories, are needed when working with these metals. (Uncommon type of fire to most companies)

### RESPONDING TO FIRES

Sound the fire alarm + call the local fire department immediately if a fire breaks out. Follow our company's procedures on responding to fires. Fight the fire **only if**:

- (1) You know the type of combustible material burning.
- (2) You have been trained to use the fire extinguisher correctly.
- (3) The fire is still in the beginning stage. Evacuate immediately if fire is too large.
- (4) You have a clear escape route, don't corner yourself fighting a fire.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Portable fire extinguishers apply an extinguishing agent that will either cool burning fuel, displace or remove oxygen, or stop the chemical reaction so a fire cannot continue to burn. When the handle of an extinguisher is compressed, agent is expelled out the nozzle.



### Remember “P-A-S-S” When Using An Extinguisher

- P – Pull** Pull the locking pin before using the fire extinguisher.
- A – Aim** Aim the fire extinguisher at the base of the fire, not at the flames.
- S – Squeeze** Squeeze the lever of the fire extinguisher to operate and discharge.
- S – Sweep** Sweep the fire extinguisher back and forth at the base of the fire.

Most extinguishers will only allow about **10 seconds of extinguishing media.**

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## PREVENTION IS KEY

Good housekeeping, proper storage procedures, and safe work practices will go a long way toward reducing the likelihood that a fire will destroy valuable property or injure either you or a fellow employee.

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## STAY SAFE

- Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly by a responsible person.
- Fire extinguishers should be serviced by a qualified technician on a yearly basis.
- Fire extinguishers of the proper type/size for the exposure shall be readily available.
- Be familiar with the location of fire extinguishers on the job site.
- When fueling equipment, always have a fire extinguisher close by.
- Never block access to a fire extinguisher.
- Don’t aim extinguisher at the flames of a fire, aim at the base.