

HOW FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WORK:

Your extinguisher must fit the fire.

Fire extinguishers are classified by the type of fire they will put out - A, BC, or ABC. Using an extinguisher that's not rated for the fire you are fighting may make the fire worse! It's particularly dangerous to use water or a Type "A" extinguisher on a class "B" or "C" fire. Multipurpose extinguishers are rated for more than one kind of fire. An "ABC" extinguisher puts out most types of fires - wood, paper, cloth, flammable liquid and electrical fires. **Know what kind of extinguisher you have in your area!**

Extinguishers have their limits.

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire. However, portable extinguishers are not designed to fight large or spreading fires. The operator must know how to use the extinguisher quickly, without taking time to read the directions. **Know what to do before a fire happens in your area!**

If you do fight the fire, remember the word PASS.



PULL the pin... Some extinguishers require releasing a lock latch.



AIM low... pointing the extinguisher nozzle, horn or hose at the base of the fire.



SQUEEZE the handle... this releases the extinguishing agent.



SWEEP from side to side... at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the fire area in case the fire flares back up.



Class "A" fires are ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber and many kinds of plastics. They can be extinguished with water.



Class "B" fires are flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, grease, tar, oil-based paint, etc.



Class "C" fires involve electrical equipment such as wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery and appliances.

Most portable fire extinguishers work according to these directions, but some do not. Read and follow the directions on your extinguisher. Protect yourself at all times! Avoid breathing the heated smoke and fumes. If the fire starts to spread or threatens your escape route, get out immediately.