

Proper Use of Fire Extinguishers

Using a fire extinguisher in the first 2 minutes of a fire can keep a small flame from becoming a big one. But valuable time can be lost if those 2 minutes are spent trying to figure out how to use the extinguisher. Used improperly, your efforts could make the fire worse.

Here are some basic tips for proper fire-extinguisher use. Review them **BEFORE** you need them. We've included some easy tricks to trigger your memory when "the heat is on."

To operate the extinguisher, just **PASS** . . .

Pull the pin.

Aim the extinguisher nozzle at the *base* of the flames.

Squeeze the trigger while holding the extinguisher upright and steady.

Sweep the extinguisher from side to side covering the entire area of the fire.

To determine which class of extinguisher to use for a particular fire, remember your **ABCs**:

A is for ordinary fires involving solids such as wood, paper and cloth.

B is for flammable liquids such as paint thinner or for grease fires.

C is for electrical equipment.

And finally, when in doubt, get out! Don't try to fight a fire that is too big, spreading too rapidly or blocks your only exit. Leave immediately and call 911.

