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# HOW & WHEN TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

## *10 Important Rules to Remember*

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**1.** Most fires start small. Except for explosions, fires can usually be brought under control if they are attacked correctly with the right type and size of extinguisher within the first two minutes!

**2.** A fire extinguisher should be "listed and labeled" by an independent testing laboratory. The higher the rating number on an A or B extinguisher, the more fire it can put out. Be careful, high-rated units are often heavier models. Make sure you can hold and operate the model you are buying.



**3.** A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives. Before attempting to fight a small fire, be sure everyone is out of the building. It is important to have someone call the fire department. If the fire starts to spread or threatens your escape path, get out immediately!

**4.** The operator must know how to use the extinguisher, quickly without taking time to read directions during an emergency. Remember that the extinguishers need care and must be recharged after every use. Read and follow manufacturer maintenance instructions.

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## IF YOU FIGHT A FIRE, REMEMBER THE WORD *PASS*:

### Pull... Aim... Squeeze... Sweep...

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**5. PPULL...** Pull the pin. Some extinguishers require releasing a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever or other motion.

**6. AAIM...** Aim low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle (or it's horn or hose) at the base of the fire.



**7. SSQUEEZE...** Squeeze the handle. This releases the extinguishing agent.

**8. SWEEP...** Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the fire area in case fire breaks out again, and repeat use of extinguisher if necessary.



**9.** Most portable extinguishers work according to these directions. But some do not. Read and follow the directions on your extinguisher. If you have the slightest doubt about whether or not to fight a fire - **DON'T!** Get out and close the door behind you.

**10.** Ask your fire department about training and practice in the use of portable fire extinguishers. Many departments offer training sessions to the public.

#### **WHEN NOT TO FIGHT A FIRE...**

- ② If the fire could block your only exit!
- ② If the fire is spreading too quickly!
- ② If the type or size of the extinguisher is wrong!
- ② If the fire is too large!
- ② If you don't know how to use your fire extinguisher!

**If any of these conditions exist, leave immediately!!!**

